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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-061
Wednesday
30 March 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Reportage Continues on G-15 Summit in New Delhi

Nigeria's Kingibe on UN Security Council

AB2903164094 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 29 Mar 94

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Excerpt] [Announcer Obima] Now, let us go to the G-15—that meeting in Delhi of 15 major developing countries. One of the main issues being discussed there are seats on the UN Security Council. And, on the line is Nigeria's foreign minister, Babagana Kingibe. Good morning, Mr. Kingibe.

[Begin recording] [Kingibe] Good morning.

[Obima] The issue of the UN Security Council that is going to be discussed—you all seem to want to sit on the UN. Is Nigeria still pressing for a seat on the UN?

[Kingibe] Well, as you know, we are on the UN and we are a nonpermanent member of the Security Council. I think you must be referring to the reform, efforts for the reform of the UN system which would allow the expansion of the permanent membership of the UN Security Council in such a way as to ensure fair representation of all the regions of the world in the light of current realities, in the post-cold war situation. And, in that regard, of course, we should definitely be interested, if the responsibility is going to be (?thrust) on us.

[Obima] Is that expansion a very realistic aspiration at this time, do you feel?

[Kingibe] Well, of course, because don't forget that the genesis of the UN—that is, an organization which was formed after the First World War by the.... [pauses] after the Second World War by the victors of that war. And, it was in fact designed to answer some of the shortcomings of the experience of the League of Nations, to the give the UN system some peace.... [pauses] to enable it maintain peace and security in the world. And it is in that context that all the provisions about the Security Council, about veto power and enforcement capabilities and so on, were incorporated into the Charter of the UN. And, I think a lot of time has elapsed since then. The world today is not the same as the post-45 world and new realities have to be taken into account. I think the current trend worldwide is for democratization, for fair representation, for equity, and I do not think that these concepts are only good enough within national boundaries. They ought to be extended to the operations and organization of the international organizations also. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Malaysia's Mahathir on G-15 Leaders' Absence

BK2903142394 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0726 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] New Delhi, March 29 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed Tuesday [29 March] expressed disappointment with the poor turnout of leaders at the ongoing summit here of the Group of 15 (G-15) developing countries, attended by only six of the heads of government.

The leaders of at least 10 nations had pledged to attend the meeting, he told Malaysian journalists covering the summit.

Those attending the three-day meeting are Dr. Mahathir, President Suharto of Indonesia, President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, President Sani Abacha of Nigeria, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao of host India.

Absent are the heads of government of Algeria, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. The incoming G-15 chairman, President Carlos Menem of Argentina, is scheduled to be present on the last day of the meeting.

The absent leaders had cited, among other things, pressing domestic problems as their reason for staying away.

Nevertheless, Dr. Mahathir said, the leaders who attended were really serious about wanting to undertake all the programmes of the grouping.

He also said that the meeting came up with a formula to get around the insufficient quorum of attendance by requiring only eight leaders to make up the quorum instead of the previous 10.

Of the eight, at least five must be heads of government while the other three must be acting, deputy or vice heads of government, he added.

Dr. Mahathir said the decision would be made known to all member nations.

Asked whether the absence of many of the heads of government at the ongoing summit reflected their level of commitment to the G-15, he said the majority of the leaders remained committed to the grouping.

From the letters and the representatives, many of them foreign ministers, sent by the leaders, I gather that there is commitment.

Although some countries did not send any representative, six nations sent top-level delegations. It is clear, therefore, that the majority remain committed, he said.

Dr. Mahathir acknowledged that it was not easy to get all 15 heads of government to together [as received] at the same time.

On a suggestion for the summit to be held biennially, he said the majority of the leaders present at the ongoing meeting seemed to want to retain the present annual session.

Mahathir on UN Structure, Western Media

BK2903141994 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0936 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] New Delhi, March 29 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Tuesday [29 March] the West's attempts to push developing countries to have a minimum wage for workers were directed at producer nations such as Malaysia, Indonesia and India.

The attempts to impose the minimum wage started after the Group of Seven (G-7) held a meeting recently to discuss unemployment in the developed countries, he told Malaysian journalists covering the ongoing summit of the Group of 15 (G-15) developing countries here.

Their aim is clear, they want to make it impossible for us to sell our goods.

When workers are paid high wages, factories will have to close, the workers will lose their jobs and then the unemployment in the developed countries will be solved, he said.

Dr. Mahathir said the developed countries did not take into account the fact that the standard of living was usually low in developing countries and that the workers were not yet ready to adjust to a high standard of living. All this while, the developed countries had imposed various regulations on developing countries linked with trade, such as the question of democracy, human rights and the environment.

He said the heads of government at the G-15 summit where they had raised the issue of the minimum wage, agreed that developing countries did not want the West to impose its systems and perceptions on the issues of democracy, human rights, the environment and minimum wage.

The question of trade should be separate from any unrelated condition, he said, adding that Western countries seemed [word indistinct]. He said, the United States still talked of Super 301, on the imposition of conditions on certain countries in their trade.

Dr. Mahathir also said that the plenary session of the G-15 summit was agreed that the structure of the United Nations must be reorganised for it to be more democratic.

He said it was undemocratic for a superpower in the UN to veto the wish of the majority of member nations.

If this continues, their talk of democracy will be meaningless. They want to force democracy on all other countries but there is no democracy in the UN itself, he said.

Dr. Mahathir said the voice of the majority could not be simply dismissed just because five big countries in the UN held the veto power.

He also said the other G-15 member countries shared Malaysia's view that the Western media always carried adverse reports on the developing countries.

However, he added, some of these countries feared that they would be the target of the Western media if they stated their stand openly in the matter.

Dr. Mahathir said the Western countries assumed that they had more rights than other countries.

While we do not interfere in their affairs, they feel they can not only interfere in ours but also direct any country to follow their concepts, failing which they will impose various forms of pressure, he said.

He said Western countries had yet to understand that a sovereign nation had the right to manage its domestic matters on its own.

Malaysia's Badawi on Payment Arrangement

BK3003013094 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0953 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] New Delhi, March 29 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The G-15 summit here feels that the Bilateral Payment Arrangement (BPA) which Malaysia has implemented will enhance trade among countries of the South.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Tuesday [29 March] trade among countries which had opted for the arrangement had shown remarkable progress in terms of the volume involved.

Trade had grown from about RM [Malaysian ringgit] 1 billion (about US$370 million) in 1989 to RM4 billion (about US$1.48 billion) last year, he told Malaysian reporters covering the three- day summit which began Monday.

He said heads of government attending the G-15 summit felt that the success proved that the BPA had become an effective mechanism to promote trade among countries of the South.

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed informed the other heads of government attending the summit that Malaysia would strive to get more countries to sign the BPA. So far 19 countries had signed the agreement.

On the North-South dialogue, Abdullah said all G-25 leaders felt that it was an important agenda and they hoped that the dialogue would benefit developing countries.

On Malaysia's proposal that academic excellence centres be set up in G-15 member countries, Abdullah said it was not discussed at the plenary session because the foreign ministers had already accepted the proposal at their meeting two days ago.

He said efforts to identify suitable institutions for the purpose would be made as soon as possible in member countries even though several countries had still to state their views on the proposal. The centres would be set up in countries which had agreed to the proposal and which were ready to implement it, Abdullah said.

Indonesia's Suharto on NAM Chairmanship

BK3003013494 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] President Suharto stressed that Indonesia is willing to extend its current term of the Nonaligned Movement leadership for another term lasting between six months to one year only if the members of NAM find it difficult to appoint another chairman.

This was stated by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas to newsmen in New Delhi today. He said Indonesia is willing to extend its NAM chairmanship only if the NAM members find it difficult to appoint a new chairman.

President Suharto stated that Indonesia was of the opinion that several members have the capability to lead the movement and the appointment of the new chairman should be carried out in an orderly manner. Indonesia became the chairman of the NAM in 1992 after the holding of the high-level summit conference in Jakarta. Indonesia's current term of chairmanship will terminate in 1995.

During his meeting with the Indian prime minister, the head of state, as the leader of the NAM, expressed his hope that a decision would be made in connection with the leadership issue during the upcoming foreign ministers meeting in Cairo from 1-4 June. A senior officials meeting will precede the high-level foreign ministers meeting from 30-31 May in Cairo.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th Calls Al-Shar' Accusations 'Unjustified'

TA2903160994 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Mar 94 p 7

[Text] Cairo—Dr. Nabil Sha'th has said that the accusations leveled by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' against the PLO about resuming the talks with Israel without coordinating with other Arab states were unjustified.

He added: It should be noted that the negotiations in which we have been engaged since the Security Council issued its resolution are based on the resolution itself. This is an intensive effort to implement Resolution 904.

Responding to al-Shar', Sha'th said: We insist on Arab coordination. If there is a problem, it is because in Madrid, the Arab parties' accepted a phased solution interim period for the Palestinians. Hence, the Arab agreement was and continues to be that the PLO should hasten to achieve its phased solution so that there will be a single negotiating stage with the other parties over a final solution.

Negotiations on Security Set To Resume in Cairo

Israeli Negotiators Arrive

NC2903123094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—An Israeli delegation headed by Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq arrived in Cairo at noon today for talks with a Palestinian team on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 904 concerning international protection for Palestinians in Hebron and the occupied territories.

The two delegations are expected to sign an agreement in this regard if particular obstacles concerning international protection are overcome. The two sides will then resume their negotiations on implementing the Gaza-Jericho Accord. Those negotiations broke off after the Israeli massacre in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron on 25 February.

Palestinians Reportedly Seek 'Secret' Venue

NC2903141094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Palestinian delegation, led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, has not gone to the hotel where the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are supposed to be held.

Sources close to negotiations say that the delay in going to the venue of the talks is because they want to hold the talks in a secret place, away from reporters and television cameras. The delegation is also waiting for instructions from the Palestinian leadership in Tunis to begin negotiations.

The Israeli delegation to the talks arrived in Cairo at noon today.

Delegates Said To Meet 'in Secret'

NC2903152294 Paris AFP in English 1434 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 29 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO began talks here Tuesday [29 March] in secret aimed at reviving the stalled autonomy negotiations despite the killing of six Palestinian activists by the army, Palestinian officials said.

The two sides met to hammer out security plans for the West Bank town of Hebron, where a Jewish settler massacred 30 Arabs last month, and clear the way for the last leg of talks on launching autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

The talks went ahead after 'Arafat called an emergency meeting in the PLO's Tunis headquarters to discuss the impact of the killings of six members of the Fatah Hawks by the Israeli army in the occupied Gaza Strip late Monday.

The Hawks are the armed wing of 'Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO.

The Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip, Zakariya al-Agha, told journalists that he shared the people's "feeling that the talks have to be suspended for a while."

Al-Agha asked: "For how long do we have to be subjected to these massacres, even though a peace process is going on."

He called for international protection to guarantee the safety of Palestinians and rejected as insufficient military regrets about the incident.

The PLO broke off the autonomy negotiations after the February 25 Hebron massacre and has said it will not resume them until it receives proper security guarantees for the occupied territories.

Differences exist on the nationality and number of foreign observers to be deployed in Hebron as well as on the number of Palestinian policemen and the type of weapons they should have, according to negotiators.

Negotiations 'Not Started Yet'

NC2903175394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, met a short while ago with General Amnon Shahaq, Israel's deputy chief of staff. According to well-informed sources, Sha'th and Shahaq discussed the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories as a result of mounting Israeli terror against Palestinian citizens.

According to the same sources, Palestinian-Israeli negotiations concerning security arrangements and international protection in Hebron, which were due to begin this afternoon in Cairo, have not started yet.

Sah'th, Shahaq Meet, Form Committee

NC3003061494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2227 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and General Amnon Shahaq, Israel's deputy chief of staff, met at 1900 today at a secret location in Cairo. The three-hour meeting resulted in a decision to form a small committee to draft a special agreement on security arrangements and international protection for the Palestinians in Hebron in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 904.

Sources close to the talks told MENA that the committee includes the following: Dr. Sha'th, 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Yahya, Jamil al-Tarifi, Hasan 'Usfur, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Rami Sha'th, Yo'el Singer, legal adviser at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, 'Uzi Dayan, deputy director of the Israeli Administration in the West Bank, and Gadi Zohar.

According to the same sources, the document produced by the drafting committee will consider modifications that the PLO requested in view of the conditions in the occupied Arab territories.

The drafting committee began its meeting at approximately 2200 and is expected to work late into the night. The remaining members of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations have retired to their quarters.

PLO To Review Agreement; Talks To Resume

NC3003110494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators will resume their extensive secret meetings in Cairo at noon today after the Palestinian leadership's reply to the new draft agreement on security measures in Hebron, which was completed at dawn today, is received from Tunis.

The drafting committee, which comprised, on the Palestinian side, president 'Arafat's political adviser Nabil Sha'th and Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya and, on the Israeli side, 'Uzi Dayan, deputy director of the Defense Ministry's planning administration, and Yo'el Singer, legal adviser at the Foreign Ministry, held a meeting last night, which continued until dawn today. This meeting followed a three-hour private meeting between the head of the Palestinian delegation, Nabil Sha'th, and the head of the Israeli delegation, General Amnon Shahaq.

Sources close to the negotiators told MENA that the Palestinian leadership will meet in Tunis later today to examine the new draft agreement on security measures and international protection in Hebron and to inform the two delegations of its view of the agreement. Afterward, the two delegations will hold an extensive meeting to discuss the details of the agreement.

The same sources said the worsening situation in the occupied territories and the outbreak of clashes in which over 66 people were killed and wounded dominated the atmosphere of the negotiations, which was tense at first and relaxed gradually as the negotiators began to discuss substantial issues.

The sources added that the Israeli side proposed the presence of 100 Palestinian policemen in Hebron and 70 international observers armed with light weapons and able to move freely.

The sources said that if the wording of the agreement on security measures in Hebron is completed today, the negotiators will turn immediately, as of tomorrow, Thursday, to the discussion of issues concerning the Gaza-Jericho Accord. Discussion was suspended following the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron on 25 February.

The agency has learned that intense international contacts took place with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis all day yesterday to make the Palestinian leadership give its delegation in Cairo the green light to restart negotiations on security measures and international protection in Hebron after the killing of six members of the Fatah Hawks in Gaza two days ago by a special unit from the Israeli Army and the death of a Palestinian woman and a man who were on the scene.

The agency also learned that Israel agreed to vanguards of the Palestinian police force entering Gaza and Jericho directly following the resumption of the negotiations concerning Palestinian self-rule in these two areas.

Further on Scheduled Talks

NC3003132494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will resume at 1800 [1600 GMT] today. The negotiators will discuss the security arrangements both in the Gaza Strip and Hebron in view of the grave and explosive situation in these two occupied areas.

Citing sources close to the negotiations, MENA says that no agreement has been reached concerning the security arrangements or the international protection in Hebron. The Palestinian leadership has not responded to the proposals presented to it after the round of negotiations that continued until early today, MENA reports.

MENA also learned that the Palestinian side has proposed that 100 international observers and 130 Palestinian policemen be deployed in Hebron. But the Israeli side turned down the proposal, MENA added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further Postponement of Maghreb Summit Feared

PM2903153694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Mar 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi: "Maghreb Summit Under Threat of Postponement and Inclination To Suspend Its Work"]

[Excerpt] Tunis—On 2 April Tunisia will host the sixth Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] summit conference but there is a possibility that the summit might yet again be postponed and there are fears that its work might be suspended.

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali recently chaired a limited cabinet meeting to discuss the summit, the normal transfer of the UMA chairmanship from Tunisia to Algeria, and a follow-up of the implementation of the agreements and achievements made during the period of Tunisia's chairmanship throughout 1993.

Although the date of the sixth Maghreb summit is only five days away, the fear of the summit being postponed for the fourth time still exists.

Observers have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that it is feared that a number of the UMA leaders may not attend the summit. So far there has been no support, at least not from Morocco and Libya, for the holding of the summit.

Diplomatic observers have expressed fears that a further postponement of the sixth Maghreb summit might open the way for interpretations and claims as a result of which the UMA's activities might be suspended.

The summit has already been postponed three times. [passage omitted]

League Study Details Negative Effects of GATT

NC2603203794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—A study prepared by the Arab League has stressed that the decisions of the Uruguay round of the GATT agreement will negatively affect the Arab countries in the areas of development, economic growth, exports, and imports; will shift the Arab trade balance in favor of the advanced countries; and will increase the unemployment rate in the Arab countries as a natural consequence of the liberalization of international trade.

The study, which was prepared by the Arab League's General Department of Economic Affairs, on the expected consequences of the GATT agreement on the Arab economy, said that the outcome of the principle of liberalization of international trade, which is the basis of the agreement, will favor the industrial countries whose products and services enjoy a superior level of quality. It added that these countries will benefit from the implementation of the agreement in tackling the unemployment problem and increasing world demand for their products, and that the world trade growth rate will increase in favor of these countries.

The study then said that, according to the agreement's clauses, special privileges will be granted to members of some economic groupings—namely countries belonging to the EU's Maastricht Treaty, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the Rome Agreement.

It then explained that the deteriorating Arab growth rates of agricultural and industrial production confirm that the consequences of implementing the agreement will not be in favor of the Arab countries whose agricultural production represents only 1.5 percent of the overall world agricultural production while their industrial production represents only 0.5 percent of world production.

The study pointed out that the price of agricultural and food products will treble as a result of the GATT decisions; this will absorb a major part of the Arab countries' financial revenues. It noted that current Arab agricultural imports total around $21 billion annually.

It said that with the increase in the price of agricultural imports, the deficit in the Arab balances of payments will consequently increase; this will, in turn, lead to a similar increase in the deficits of public budgets.

According to the agreement, agricultural subsidies for the member countries' production will be repealed and hence the (?Arab) countries will find themselves at a great disadvantage vis-a-vis agricultural imports from abroad, as the price of imported goods will be less than that of local Arab goods. This threatens to destroy Arab agricultural production in the long term unless advanced agricultural development is achieved.

The study called for developing systems of Arab agricultural production, food security, and water availability in the future to help the Arab states face outside competition. The study highlighted the need to turn to agricultural mechanization; improve agricultural packing, transportation, storage, and marketing methods; cut back on consumption; and eliminate agricultural waste in production, transportation, and storage.

The study touched on the GATT's effects on Arab industrial commodities. It pointed out that the Arab states will face tough competition in the future in the field of industrial products, particularly since raw materials represent a considerable part of Arab exports. In the meantime, the major industrial states endeavor to develop new alternatives to the raw materials they obtain from the developing nations, something that will weaken the competitive position of the Arab world. In this regard, the study noted that the Arab states have difficulty promoting Arab industrial products as an alternative to foreign imports, except in limited areas. For instance, the Arab world produces 10 million tons of iron annually, while the Arab markets need more than 16 million tons.

The study emphasized that under the GATT agreement, a number of Arab industries will be affected by tough international competition, including petrochemicals, wooden products, ready-made clothing, paper, printing, and publishing industries. The study called for applying the rules of research and development and introducing quality methods and world standards on specifications to save Arab industries.

On the freeing of trade in services, the study noted that this will result in unequal competition within the Arab markets in the fields of banking, insurance, transportation, tourism, communications, construction, cultural production, and aviation because the Arab states are importers of services. Meanwhile, these services are highly advanced in the developed nations.

The GATT has expanded the concept of world trade to include government purchases, including purchases by the army, police, local governments, and public utilities, in which the public tenders will be subject to free world competition. Accordingly, the advanced states will gain a larger share of government tenders, which will amount to $100 billion in the year 2000, as compared to $22 billion in 1990.

The study concluded that the Arab world will be greatly affected in the fields of government purchases and tenders for infrastructure and public sector projects. It also concluded that the Arab states will incur losses in the short and medium terms in the areas of agricultural and industrial production and services, while the price of imported commodities is expected to rise.

The study recommended the need to devise integrated and modern economic and trade policies that rely on a common Arab will to remedy the expected losses.

The GATT's decisions were issued during the Uruguay round last December. There are 115 member states of the GATT and two observer countries. Among the member states there are eight Arab countries: Egypt, Bahrain, Tunisia, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 23 Mar

NC2903131294

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 23 March issue of Cairo AL-NUR summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

NOTE ON AL-NUR'S PUBLICATION, FORMAT:

The current editorial report describes the contents of the 23 March 1994 issue of AL-NUR, the first issue of this publication received by Nicosia Bureau since January 1994.

The last issue received of AL-NUR, which has the serial number 599, does not give a day of publication, only naming the month of publication as January. The current issue, with serial number 600, is presumably consecutive to the January issue. In an inscription added to the front page's top right-hand square carrying the paper's title, the paper describes itself as an "Islamic Weekly," which did not appear in earlier issues in the Bureau's files. The paper does not give a reason for the hiatus in its publication.

The current issue displays no notable change in AL-NUR's format. The front page caption still cites al-Hamzah Di'bis as chairman of the board and 'Ali Faruq as chief editor. The paper is still "issued by the Liberal Party," but the caption fails to display the information that Mustafa Kamil Murad is the "party leader," as it did in the previous editions on file here.

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1. Television programs denounced
2. Al-Azhar Schools Close Down
3. Red Cross Publication Praised
4. Muslim Figures Interviewed
5. Co-ed Colleges Denounced
6. Extremist Disavows AL-AKHBAR Interview

TELEVISION PROGRAMS DENOUNCED

An 800-word commentary by "AL-NUR's political editor" appears on page 1 under a triple headline: "Television Assails Islam and Its Tenets Under the Pretext of Fighting Terror; What Shall We Tell Our Children About the Television's Edict Banning Cucumber and Zucchini? The Solution in the Television's Opinion is That an Unveiled Girl Should Lead the Muslims Into the Desert."

The political editor begins his commentary by lauding the Islamic propensities of slain President Anwar al-Sadat and denouncing what he sees as the secular policies of the current government. He writes:

"The late President Anwar al-Sadat, God bless his soul, struck at communism, expelled Russian experts from Egypt, and issued presidential decrees liquidating the Vanguard Organization of the Arab Socialist Party, the Youth Organization. Having led the nation to victory in the October/Ramadan [1973] war, he restored freedoms and the multi-party system and began to Islamize the laws, a goal that he entrusted to al-Azhar professors, law experts, and members of the judiciary. Meanwhile, communists and members of the defunct Vanguard and Youth Organizations lurked in the dark. No sooner had al-Sadat passed on then those communists and Vanguard and Youth Organization officials returned to office with only one object in mind: killing al-Sadat's memory and accomplishments every living day."

The editor then expands on television dramas that, he claims, "poke fun at Islam" by ridiculing religion among youth and the Islamic dress code.

AL-AZHAR SCHOOLS CLOSE DOWN:

A 600-word report on page 1 by Safwat al-Sandafawi cites Shaykh Muhammad Bashir 'Abd-al-'Al, director general of al-Azhar institutions, as saying that "1,500 al-Azhar institutions have been closed down due to a lack of funds needed to rehabilitate the school buildings that cracked in last year's earthquake." Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Al says that 294 million pounds [approximately $80 million] are needed to put the schools back in working order. Al-Azhar has petitioned the government for these funds, but "the government did not oblige," the al-Azhar official says.

RED CROSS PUBLICATION PRAISED

Chairman of the Board al-Hamzah Di'bis writes a 1,500-word editorial on the front page entitled, "International Committee of the Red Cross Applauds Islam's Global Rules of War and Peace." Di'bis says that Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad gave him a Red Cross publication called, "From the Records of Arab Islamic History." He then reviews this publication, commending its favorable view of Islamic traditions.

MUSLIM FIGURES INTERVIEWED

On page 2, the paper carries interviews with Chief Bosnian Ulema Shaykh Mustafa Ibrahim and a U.S. physician, Barbara Klein, who converted to Islam. The Bosnian official deplores the attacks on Muslims in his country and says that there is "an orchestrated policy to eradicate Islam from Europe." Dr. Klein praises her adopted faith and denounces U.S. support for Israel.

CO-ED COLLEGES DENOUNCED

A 3,500-word report by Sayyid Farghal appears on page 3. He interviews a dozen students from various universities, all of whom believe that mixed education is both unnecessary and unethical and that all-male and all-female colleges are morally commendable and educationally superior to co-ed universities.

"Distinguished Islamic scholar" Dr. 'Abd-al-Rashid Saqr, "Islamic scholar" Dr. Muhammad 'Imarah; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Adawi, Professor of religious studies at al-Azhar University; Dr. Majdi Hasan, professor of Civil Law at 'Ayn Shams University; Dr. Muhammad Farahat, professor of shari'ah at 'Ayn Shams University; and 'Uthman Muhammad 'Uthman, an education expert, concur with this view.

Farghal's interviews include no co-ed supporters.

EXTREMIST DISAVOWS AL-AKHBAR INTERVIEW

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Samawi writes a 2,000-word "Rebuttal of Sabir Shawkat" on page 5. Al-Samawi, a one-time friend of Shawqi al-Shaykh and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Baqi, co-founders of al-Shawqiyun group, is rumored to have issued the license [al-istihlal] edict by which Muslim extremists are encouraged to steal from infidels, i.e., anyone that is not an extremist.

Al-Samawi had been interviewed by an AL-AKHBAR journalist named Sabir Shawkat who published an account of that interview in AL-AKHBAR's issue at the beginning of Sha'ban [around 12 January], which al-Samawi vehemently disavows.

For example, Shawkat wrote that he "faced al-Samawi with the details of his crimes against Egypt and the youths whom he sent into the dark tunnels of extremism." Al-Samawi says "he did not face me with one crime."

Al-Samawi writes: "What crime have I committed against Egypt and its youth? Is it that I urged youth to stick to Islam and be proud of it? Is it that I made them turn to God and attend prayers? Is it that I made them desert the disreputable haunts and head to the places of worship? Or, is it that I made them follow the path of God and pray for his blessing?" He adds: "I have been imprisoned for 12 years without being indicted, without a court ruling, and without doing any wrong or committing any crime."

Al-Samawi says: "The AL-AKHBAR journalist has cited me as saying, 'I do not deny that I am the first who called for amirs to lead the Islamic groups in Egypt, 20 years ago, and the first who formed religious groups since the Muslim brotherhood, but now I call for paradise.' I ask you, journalist, is this what I said or what you invented?"

Al-Samawi adds: "The journalist wrote, 'concerning the extremist ideas that he [al-Samawi] inculcated into thousands of youth, he [al-Samawi] said: I have never sanctioned license [al-istihlal].'"

Ridiculing Shawkat, al-Samawi writes: "If I have not passed the license edict, then what brand of extremism have I inculcated into the minds of thousands? Or is it that I am accused of having spread moderation through failure to pass that edict?"

Al-Samawi denies having told Shawkat that "al-Shawqiyun and other groups have sanctioned the practice of license." He also denies having said that he "indoctrinated thousands of youth who then deserted me and joined other groups where they became a fuel for terror, and I am opposed to their terrorist operations."

Al-Samawi continues his defiant rebuttal of Shawkat's account of the interview, but refrains from expressing his opinion on terrorism or giving any clear statement on his current political position.

Political Islam, Religious Differences Viewed

NC2903141594 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
23 Mar 94 p 8

[Article by Counselor Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi: "Religion and Ideology"]

[Text] One of the most difficult things for a normal human being to achieve during his lifetime is to set or absorb a definition for each subject, idea, or opinion. As a result, most people lead a blurred existence where concepts are not defined, issues are not clarified, and a balance is not attained. Since the condition of such a life is continuous blindness where objects and people always clash against each other, the result will be successive catastrophes leading to a confusion of religion and ideology. When things get to this stage, religion deteriorates from being a belief into being a sect and topples from religious tolerance to a rigid system. Therefore, what is religion and what is ideology?

It is difficult to find one definition for religion. However, one of its definitions is a sense of spirituality regarding the existence of an omnipotent single supreme power. This feeling becomes manifest in the various courses of life and is reflected in various behaviors. As for ideology, it consists of theories and the comprehensive objectives that constitute the basis for a social and political program. This is known as an ideology.

Islam is the religion. But the doctrines followed by some groups, especially the political Islam groups, are an ideology, not religion. This is because once politics enters religion, it destroys the latter's concepts, changes its content, and influences its essence. Religion is more noble than a doctrine, finer than regimes, more comprehensive than theories, and above taking sides and joining groups. When religion is restricted to an ideology, confined within a system, summarized into a theory, or formed into a party or group, when this happens it detracts from the freedom and divinity of religion and transforms it into a sectarian struggle, fighting regimes, contradicting theories, or clashing parties.

This cannot be justified by claiming that the Prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, practiced religion through politics. The reality is that when the Prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, practiced politics, he did so as part of his message with the intention of spreading it. This, according to Islamic understanding, took place under the supervision and follow- up of the inspiration, where every shortcoming was rectified on the spot. Any Muslim who attempts to practice politics after the Prophet's time, God's peace and blessings be upon him, where there is neither prophet nor inspiration, does so to realize certain goals and specific objectives. He does not do so because he is following a message from God or a part of a prophesy. Prophesies are over and done with. Evidence of this is that when politics infiltrated Islam, the great sedition took place. Muslims were divided into various parties—the Umayyads, the Hashemites, the Khawarijites [the oldest dissident religious sect of Islam], and other such parties. Each of these parties portrays the other as a heretic, and believes that its ideology is the absolute and the whole. Whoever does not adopt the ideology of that group becomes a rival, nay even an enemy, that must be fought and defeated. His blood and property become sanctioned. The practice of the Islamic parties and groups becomes killing each other and sanctioning the blood of Muslims outside their groups. Then, this turned into a war against Islam to kill Muslims.

Religion brings people together, and religious ideology divides them. Religion unites and ideology fragments. Religion reconciles people and ideology separates them. Religion is forgiving and ideology creates grudges. This is because religion comes from a perfect God while ideology was created by imperfect man.

This is why loyalty in religion is to God and God alone, the God of all mankind. All people are considered the family of God: They learn and practice the values of religion, accept and apply its morality, become linked to its history, and then spread it throughout humanity. When talking about ideology, loyalty is to the organization, or the party, or the group; belief is in the ideology even though it may be wrong; allegiance is to the amir even if he is misguided; obedience is to the rules set by mankind regardless of how clearly they contradict religion or call for killing innocent people or destroying homelands.

Many people have noticed that religious ideology is bad and that it is based, in the first place, on dividing people for earthly reasons. It is based primarily on changing religion into warring parties and fighting groups. These people have fought this ideology and made enemies with it. But because of the difficulty in setting definitions, and the confusion in and vagueness of issues, their enemies—that is, the supporters of ideology—accused them of being enemies of religion. The former, in actual fact, are the enemies of ideology, not religion. They might even be more religious and stronger believers than the people with ideologies who believe only in their ideology, adhere to the opinion of an individual, and obey the orders of a human being.

Ideology is the true enemy and actual foe of religion. This is because it restricts religion to one ideology, when religion has the capacity to incorporate many ideologies; ideology confines religion to the opinion of one person, while religion has the capacity to absorb many opinions; it limits religion inside empty slogans while religion rises above all slogans; it explains religion through general terms, while religion is based on a text and specific explanations. In the name of this ideology, many institutions have been created throughout history all over the world, monopolizing allegiance to themselves and waging wars in their own interests. They falsely allege that loyalty should be to them, not to God, and that wars are religious, while religion has nothing to do with war and killing.

Perhaps it is vital in this age, where many issues are intertwined, values are vague, and knowledge ambiguous, to clarify all matters, thus leaving no room for ambiguity or inadequacy. Facts should be made clear and specified. Religion should be distinguished from ideology. Religious laws should be distinguished from sectarianism to stress that religion is from God and ideology comes from humans. What stems from God calls for unity in worshipping the one and only God. No man or doctrine other than God's should be worshipped. "The same religion has He established for you as that which He enjoined on Noah - the which We have sent by inspiration to thee and that which We enjoined on Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: Namely that ye should remain steadfast in religion and make no divisions therein." [Koranic verse] "Say: "O people of the book! Come to common terms as between us and you: that we worship none but God." [Koranic verse]

The just person is one who does not confuse religion with ideology, but knows the scope of religion and the place for ideology. He does not place his belief in an organization, party, or group. He is not denying his own religious beliefs when he claims that an organization is not religious, or when he denies that religion is confined to a party or welded into a group. In fact, he would be a moderate capable of telling the difference between ideology and religion. He would be dedicating himself to his belief in God, and would work hard to spread his belief through his noble personality, good manners, harmony, and ability at reconciliation. These are qualities that start with the individual, and then spread to the family, the society, humanity, and the whole globe. He would thus be the person who through his creation wants to shape the world, and allow humanity to progress and the world to prosper.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Killings To Have 'Grave Effect' on Peace

NC2903185594 London MBC Television in Arabic 1805 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by Nidal Qabalan, in London on 29 March—recorded]

[Text] [Qabalan] 'Arafat told us that there were two possibilities behind the attack in which six Palestinians were killed yesterday in Jabalyah Camp.

['Arafat] Either, and I wonder about this, it is that Rabin knows what is going on but is turning a blind eye, or that these acts are being committed by Israeli army units without Rabin's knowledge. In either case, it is a terrible situation that will have a grave effect on the entire peace process.

There are formations within the Israeli Army... [pauses] We are facing the same experience as our brothers the Algerians in Evian [Algerian pre-independence talks with the French] when an organization named OAS, or the Secret Army Organization, was formed from French Army personnel and French settlers. Now we are facing the same [type of] secret organization.

[Qabalan] In your opinion, what is the fate of Palestinian-Israeli talks in view of repeated Israeli massacres of the Palestinian people and PLO activists?

['Arafat] There have been no... [pauses] There are no negotiations. What is happening is simply this: When they [Israeli officials] came here, they said: We will give you the final answer after going back to Rabin. We will convey the answer during the donors meeting. The donors meeting was held in Cairo last Thursday [24 March], but nothing happened. They postponed the answer till today, Tuesday.

[Qabalan] And, today?

['Arafat] Today, before they gave the answer, the crime took place, the second massacre took place. Therefore, these are premeditated acts, no more and no less. I lay the responsibility at the doorstep of the co-sponsors of the [peace] conference.

[Qabalan] What, then, is the Israeli delegation doing in Cairo now?

['Arafat] This delegation is not a delegation; it is an individual who will give an answer to us and to the Egyptian brothers.

[Qabalan] Thank you, President.

'Arafat, Russian Envoy Discuss Resolution 904

LD2903181294 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] also received Boris Shchiborin, the Russian Federation ambassador in Tunis, on Monday [28 March] evening.

The ambassador conveyed a message to the brother president from the Russian leadership.

The recent developments on the implementation of Security Council's Resolution 904 in connection with the international protection for our people in the occupied territories were reviewed.

The necessary measures for the resumption of the talks were also discussed.

Spokesman Issues Statement on Jabalyah Incident

LD2903220694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Following the hideous massacre, the official Palestinian spokesman made the following statement:

The forces of the Israeli occupation have yesterday committed a new massacre against the children of our people in the occupied Gaza Strip when the Israeli Army fired at some Palestinian young activists while they were distributing political leaflets in Jabalyah to the masses of our people on the political developments that are currently under way.

When those youths stopped near a gas station, the army patrols and Arabic-speaking elements of the Israeli intelligence immediately opened fire on them, killing the six youths, as well as a woman and a man while passing by the place.

This new massacre—which is being added to the series of the massacres committed by the Israeli Army and the armed settlers against the children of our people since the terrible massacre of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque, and before that since their occupation of our land and their attacks on our sanctities, freedom, and dignity and on our right in a dignified, free and independent life—all these reveal the depth of the premeditated conspiracy in which some Israeli Army units and the armed settlers are implicated against our masses, our sanctities and land, which, in their totality, constitute hideous crimes and vile conspiracies against humanity, against our people and against the whole of the peace process.

This massacre will only increase our people's determination and adherence to obtain their legitimate rights. It is regrettable that all these crimes and violations are taking place at the same time when false crocodile tears are being shed over lost opportunities for a solution, and evasive talk is being heard on good intentions and on a desire for peace.

Genuine peace comes about by protecting the Palestinian people, their sanctities, lives and properties in accordance with international legitimacy, the last of which was declared in UN Security Council Resolution 904. This resolution calls for ensuring international protection for our people by providing an international presence in the Palestinian territories, disarming settlers, and evacuating the settlements which lie in the heart of our towns and amidst our people.

Fatah Announces General Strike, Threatens Clashes

JN2903204094 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The Fatah Movement has announced a general strike in the occupied territories in the aftermath of the martyrdom of eight Palestinians affiliated with the Fatah Hawks in the Jabalyah camp in the occupied Gaza Strip. The Fatah Movement threatened to step up clashes with the Israeli occupation authorities.

Israel Radio expressed fears today that the Jabalyah incident could influence the course of the negotiations and the peace process, particularly since brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has called for an urgent PLO meeting in Tunis to make a decision on this incident.

Fatah Leader in Gaza Strip Reacts to Jabalyah Killings

JN2903174894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1551 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, "a Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip" by Hasan Abu-Zayid, place and date not given; from the "With the Events" feature]

[Text] [Abu-Zayid] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip, what do you have to say about what happened in Jabalyah yesterday?

[Abu-Zayidah] First, this is a very serious incident. It is an unforgivable act by the Israeli undercover units. To cold-bloodedly kill six Palestinians, six Fatah members, in broad daylight is an extremely dangerous thing.

[Abu-Zayid] But, the Israelis; that is, the military authorities have claimed that they were armed and masked.

[Abu-Zayidah] This is nothing new. The appearance of masked men on the Palestinian streets has become a familiar phenomenon. The same goes for carrying arms. This is no reason to kill them. If the Israeli authorities want to kill whoever uses a mask or carries arms, this means that they will kill hundreds of Palestinians every day. I do not think that this would be a reasonable thing to do.

[Abu-Zayid] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah: How does the typical Palestinian view current developments, particularly at this point in time when Israel and the PLO are attempting to resume their talks?

[Abu-Zayidah] The entire Palestinian people are deeply saddened and pained. They are shedding tears of blood on their martyrs. At present, they cannot conceive of negotiations or a peace agreement, of a resumption of the negotiations, or of a halt to them.

[Abu-Zayid] Have you submitted your recommendations to the PLO with regard to resuming or halting the negotiations?

[Abu-Zayidah] The Palestinian leadership is fully aware of even the most minute developments here. In light of these developments, the proper decision that will promote the Palestinian people's interests will be made.

[Abu-Zayid] Has there been a retreat in the Palestinian people's support for the peace process?

[Abu-Zayidah] The Palestinian people have not thus far seen any tangible result, even a modest one, from the peace process. On the contrary, since the convening of the Madrid conference, they have seen calamities. It goes without saying that this is bound to influence their convictions. Certainly, this latest incident will not help strengthen the Palestinian people's convictions regarding peace. Nonetheless, the Palestinian people hope that the Israeli Army will withdraw from the occupied territories so that peace may prevail in the region.

[Abu-Zayid] Notwithstanding these incidents, do you expect progress in the peace talks at present?

[Abu-Zayidah] The natural outcome of this incident should be the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli Army from Gaza Strip in general, and from Jabalyah Camp in particular.

[Abu-Zayid] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, Fatah leader in Gaza Strip, thank you very much.

[Abu-Zayidah] You are welcome.

Territories' Fatah Urges Support of 'Arafat

TA2903193994 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Mar 94 p 5

[Text] Jerusalem—Fatah in the occupied territories has called on the brother strugglers abroad to act immediately in order to overcome all differences, to mend the rifts, to affirm and reinforce the principle of Fatah brotherhood, and to rally around the leadership of the movement's leader, Yasir 'Arafat, with the aim of thwarting the enemies and their henchmen.

Fatah also warned those whom it described as conspirators who issue leaflets against some leading officials in the movement.

DFLP, PFLP to Fatah: Rebel Against 'Arafat

JN2903182494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Reort by Sana' al-Imam from Damascus]

[Text] The unified command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has appealed to Fatah members and cadres and the Fatah Hawks in the occupied territories to withdraw their confidence from 'Arafat's leadership and rebel against its orders, policies, and course as this leadership has given up national rights. This came in a statement issued by the two fronts' unified command.

The unified command said that the massacre of Jabaliya in Gaza once again shows that the occupation does not differentiate among the revolution's strugglers, and that it pursues its terrorism against all the sons of the Palestinian people.

For his part, DFLP secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has emphasized the need to immediatley stop wagering on the U.S. Administration. He called for discarding the belief that Washington will bring pressure to bear on Israel, as the Oslo-Cairo agreement proponents claim. Hawatimah called on those who defend this agreement to give up their positions in the PLO.

Islamic Council Urges Withdrawal From Talks

TA2903153694 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 27 Mar 94 pp 1, 7

[By 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Arna'ut and Nasir Najib]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—The Supreme Islamic Council has called on the Palestinian leadership in particular and the Arab states in general to withdraw from the current Arab-Israeli talks. It also stressed the need to stand firmly against U.S. positions, which are biased in favor of the Israeli party.

This demand, which is the first of its kind since the Madrid conference was convened about 20 months ago, came in an urgent telegram by the council following its meeting yesterday morning in Jerusalem. In the meeting, the council discussed the assault against Islamic sanctities and the Palestinian people, especially the recent massacre perpetrated by Israeli settlers in Hebron's al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

The council criticized remarks by U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli officials on the fate of holy Jerusalem, as well as the U.S. Administration's stance on UN Security Council Resolution 904. It called on Arab and Islamic countries to clearly determine their stance on the U.S. Administration in light of its biased positions toward the Israeli side. [passage omitted]

Hamas Calls On Arabs To Maintain Boycott of Israel

TA2903181494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Mar 94 p 2

[Text] London, QUDS PRESS—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is opposed to the Middle East peace talks, called on Arab foreign ministers who met in Cairo to reject U.S. and European calls to lift the Arab economic boycott imposed on Israel. Hamas demanded from the ministers to adopt harsher measures against companies dealing with Israel.

Israeli Army Seen Trying To 'Kill' Peace Process

TA2903153994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 25 Mar 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Israel's Military Hurting Peace Prospects"]

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat expressed concern after the Hebron massacre, and rightly so, that the Israeli Army and settlers are conspiring to derail the peace talks. We had no doubt that the settlers would do something to kill the peace process. What surprises us is the army's attempt to do the same.

The army's actions in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip speak for themselves. In Lebanon, the Israeli army reacted to attacks against army bases by shelling civilian centers in south Lebanon outside the so-called security zone. The result was the brutal and merciless murder and injury of children when Israeli army shells hit a school bus. Then the Israeli army dares to complain when Katyusha rockets fall on vacant land in northern Israel and threaten to react harshly, as if the damage and pain already done was not enough.

In the West Bank, the Israeli army fired rockets at a house in the heart of Hebron, allegedly in pursuit of armed Palestinian activists. For 18 hours, the army engaged the Palestinians and opened fire on them from all directions with the intention to kill. The severity of the shelling only proves that the army had no intention to take the Palestinians alive. Finally, after killing four activists and a pregnant mother sitting in her home, the army demolished the house.

All this happened while Hebron was still under curfew since the massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque on Feb. 25. Every time the army lifts the curfew for a few hours, a young Palestinian or two is shot and killed by the military. The TV news clearly shows that the army opens fire and shoots at demonstrators all the time. It also shows children shot while running away from army bullets and not threatening anyone. So, they have no excuse to open fire at them.

The testimonies of ranking army officers at the Israeli Commission of Inquiry try to justify the army and the settlers' trigger-happy policy in the occupied territories. In reality, they only prove that the army has one mode of thinking: the gun is the only means of negotiating.

With Yitzhaq Rabin serving as Israel's prime minister and number one decision-maker, as well as serving as defense minister responsible for the army's actions, one is left to wonder what his real intentions are. If we assume his intentions are the same as his generals, then the peace process is in real trouble. It is then up to the civilian members of the Israeli Cabinet to correct this defect, if they are really interested in a peace settlement.

Clinton's Jerusalem Remarks Reviewed, Criticized

TA2903183594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Mar 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Clinton's Statements On Jerusalem Have Deprived Washington of the Sponsor's Role"]

[Text] Citing U.S. President Bill Clinton's statement to the effect that "united Jerusalem is the capital of Israel," U.S. Jewish leaders said that this position is compatible with the commitment that he made during his election campaign. If the U.S. president really made this statement, and there are indications that he did, this means that the current U.S. Administration has adopted a stance contrary to official U.S. positions on Jerusalem advocated by previous administrations. In addition such a stance is a flagrant violation of international legitimacy and resolutions relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This stance also affirms that the U.S. Administration cannot play the role of honest broker in the peace talks, especially when the Palestinian-Israeli accord has clearly specified that the status of Jerusalem will be at the top of the list of issues to be discussed during the final stage talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

This position, attributed to Clinton, was preceded by the U.S. abstention in the Security Council vote on a clause affirming that Jerusalem was part of the occupied Palestinian territories. The vote was within context of a resolution on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. On this basis, Clinton's recent statement is not separate from the U.S. position's farce in the Security Council during the deliberations over the massacre and from what he stated during his election campaign.

Therefore, those voices which considered Clinton's statements during the election campaign as being mere lip service to gain the American Jewish vote in the elections should now realize their mistake. They should also realize that what is happening now is a clear shift in the U.S. position—one that seeks to be in harmony with the Israeli position and that ignores and denies the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations in Jerusalem.

In sum, a U.S. stance that is so clear and grave on a central problem in the Arab-Israeli conflict calls for a serious assessment of the U.S. role in the peace talks. The U.S. Administration's continued fulfillment of the sponsor's role in the peace talks while adopting Israel's positions means that it has lost any credibility in playing such a role and that it has lost the legitimacy of intervening in the talks, especially as it has defied international legitimacy and its resolutions, on which the foundations of the peace process are based.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Indian, Pakistani Reaction to Kashmir Vote Noted

BK2503122994

[Editorial Report] Both India and Pakistan claimed victory after the deliberations at the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Commission on the Pakistani resolution on human rights violations in Kashmir.

Pakistan withdrew the resolution hours before it was due for a vote on 9 March after high-level contacts between Pakistan, China and Iran and an appeal by the delegates of developing countries for its withdrawal. While Indian officials were euphoric in claiming "stunning diplomatic victory" for the "unconditional withdrawal" of the resolution, which they say has now "lapsed," Pakistani officials were adamant that the resolution has only been "deferred" after what it described as "singular diplomatic victory" after India came under international pressure to allow a fact-finding delegation from Muslim countries to visit Kashmir.

While the Indian press was near unanimous in hailing the outcome as vindication of the Indian position that the Kashmir issue could only be solved bilaterally, and in predicting increasing domestic political pressure on Bhutto for her "Geneva rebuff", reaction from Pakistani media was mixed, with some papers even going to the extent of describing it as a "loss of face" for Pakistan.

Within hours of the Geneva vote, Delhi All India Radio in English at 0245 GMT on 10 March described it in its news bulletin as "vindication of India's principled stand" and broadcast a statement by External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh. Singh thanked China and Iran for "prevailing upon Pakistan to withdraw the resolution." He also expressed the hope that "Pakistan will now be ready for bilateral talks under the Simla Agreement and desist from misleading the international community through false allegations of violations of human rights in India."

A radio commentary that morning urged Pakistan to "accept defeat." The commentary said: "Will Pakistan learn a lesson from the humiliation it suffered in Geneva? The outcome of the conference shows that while rhetoric as resorted to by the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, may sound fine, it does not yield results. India believes in peaceful coexistence with its neighbors and has consistently reiterated its commitment to bilateral dialogue. Hopefully, Pakistan—having traversed the path of defeat—will now realize that there is no substitute for peace, truth and honesty."

In its prime-time 1530 GMT news bulletin on 10 March, Delhi Radio broadcast Foreign Secretary Srinivasan's statement. The statement affirmed that "Pakistan's withdrawal of the resolution is unconditional and there is no question of linking it with sending of a fact-finding mission to Kashmir." At the same time, Srinivasan ruled out Iranian mediation on Kashmir.

In its 1230 GMT and 1530 GMT bulletins on 10 March, Delhi Radio reported the reaction of Indian political parties. The ruling Congress-I Party described the development as "a diplomatic success for India as Pakistan found itself totally isolated in the international community." The statement added: "The clear message to Pakistan from Geneva is that it must go back to the Simla pact." The Communist Party of India hoped "good sense will prevail on the Pakistan Government now that it has withdrawn its resolution at the UN Commission on Human Rights at Geneva. Pakistan should make an honest effort to solve it within the framework of the Simla Agreement." The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, while hailing the outcome, urged the government "to take firm action to curb the militancy in Kashmir." BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee wanted "consolidation of the gains of Geneva vote by taking concrete steps to restore normalcy in the Kashmir valley." The Communist Party of India-Marxist, while expressing satisfaction, called on the government "to find a political solution of the Kashmir issue."

The Indian press was unanimous in praising what it described as Pakistan's "failure" and the "rebuff" it received. It also contended that the Geneva failure may create domestic political pressure for Benazir Bhutto. The anti-establishment INDIAN EXPRESS said in the editorial "Returns From a Hard Line" on 11 March: "Islamabad is trying hard to cover up its debacle at the UN Human Rights Commission session by claiming that its purpose of internationalizing the Kashmir issue has been amply served. Why does it imagine that the chancelleries around the world are not already fully aware of the Kashmir dispute after three full-scale wars and four years of low intensity proxy conflict? In point of fact, the ridiculous strategy of internationalizing Kashmir has more to do with internal pressures of successive Pakistani regimes than with gaining external support. This is why Benazir Bhutto may well face the most daunting domestic challenge of her career following the Pakistani misadventure in Geneva."

An article by HINDUSTAN TIMES columnist M.K. Dhar said: "The rebuff Pakistan suffered at Geneva, where its concerted efforts to internationalize the Kashmir issue failed miserably, deals a severe diplomatic and political blow to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto whose anti-India rhetoric is expected to become more strident in the coming weeks. Having queered the pitch for a showdown with India and having forced to retreat under the impact of adverse international opinion, she has made herself vulnerable to a renewed attack by her political adversaries. She will find her position further weakened, precariously poised as she is as the head of an inherently unstable government."

The first Pakistani report came in an Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network Urdu news bulletin at 0200 GMT on 10 March. While announcing the "deferment" of a vote after India agreed to allow Muslim fact-finders to visit Kashmir, the report said: "A three-point package has been worked out out after high-level contacts among Pakistan, Iran and China. Sixteen countries supported the formula." The same news bulletin included Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali's statement saying: "Pakistan has achieved its objective to awaken world opinion about the plight of the Kashmiri people. Despite the deferment of the resolution, the Kashmir issue will be raised at other world forums."

The 1100 GMT bulletin that day included Information Minister Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal's statement echoing the foreign minister's remarks. Kharal said: "Pakistan has not withdrawn the resolution, but it has only been deferred at the intervention of its Chinese and Iranian friends." In its prime-time 1400 GMT bulletin, Pakistan Television in English broadcast a recorded statement by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali defending Pakistan's decision to withdraw the resolution. The statement said: "The package deal is that a resolution has been tabled. It has not been withdrawn. It remains in its original form without any amendment whatsoever, but it has been deferred. So, the Kashmir resolution is now on the world agenda." In its 1500 GMT Urdu bulletin on 10 March, Islamabad Radio referred to Foreign Secretary Sharharyar Khan's statement that India should include the Islamic Conference Organization secretary general in the Muslim delegation allowed to visit Kashmir under the package deal.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's reaction was reported by Islamabad Radio at 0100 GMT on 13 March. Bhutto told foreign correspondents in Islamabad that "Pakistan will now consider presenting a resolution on the issue at the United Nations." On the Geneva vote, Bhutto said: "India had promised us through Iran that it would allow the ambassadors of Islamic countries to visit occupied Kashmir. Fourteen countries expressed concern over the people of Jammu and Kashmir and violation of human rights when the voting on the resolution was deferred." In its 1400 GMT English bulletin on 16 March, Pakistan Television referred to Bhutto's interview with Voice of Germany Radio defending the Pakistani decision to withdraw the resolution. She said: "Voting on the resolution was not important as it is not a game of numbers, rather it is a matter of conscience."

State-run media gave scant coverage to reaction by opposition parties not satisfied with the government's explanation. At 0200 GMT on 11 March Islamabad Radio broadcast an under-minute report saying that Nawabzada Nasrulla Khan, chairman of the National Assembly Kashmir Committee, was "not happy with the deferment of the voting on the resolution on Kashmir at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva." The radio said main opposition leaders Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and Maulana Mohammad Ajmal Khan have also "criticized the deferment of the voting on the Pakistan resolution on Kashmir."

The press, however, widely published opposition criticism. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group leader Chaudhary Shujat Hussain described Geneva as a "fiasco" and said "it is a black day in the struggle of Kashmiri people, who are rendering unprecedented sacrifices for their rights and have been stabbed by an unpopular government." Gauhar Ayub Khan, deputy opposition leader in the National Assembly, was more critical, saying "the prime minister should immediately step down as she had brought an embarrassment to Pakistan, which had no parallel in the history of the country." He added the negative vote outcome was due to the "criminal negligence on the part of the government." Mian Shahbaz Sharif, opposition leader in Punjab, condemned the government decision and accused Bhutto of "patronizing" India. He said: "She is not prepared to lose any single opportunity to please India by playing with the national interests of Pakistan, which are in no way dear to her." He appealed to the people to stand up against the "pro-India" government.

Editorial reaction was mixed. The pro-government THE PAKISTAN TIMES said in the 11 March editorial "A Successful Move" that "Pakistan has achieved the basic objectives underlying the move" to table the resolution in Geneva. Insisting that Pakistan has succeeded in highlighting the Kashmir situation for the world, it claimed: "Thus, while on the one hand Pakistan has succeeded in putting India on the defensive on the human rights issue in held Kashmir, on the other, it retains the diplomatic initiative in the matter." The Urdu-language Rawalpindi daily JANG published an editorial on 11 March supporting the government move in wake of "pressures from China, Iran and 15 other friendly countries" by saying: "the foreign minister's assertion that by tabling the resolution Pakistan has realized many of its objectives is correct to a great extent."

The English-language daily THE NATION, however, took a different view. In the 11 March editorial "Loss of Face in Geneva" it said: "Whether it was an outright foreign policy debacle, as the Opposition would insist, or a tactical retreat dictated by the compulsion of circumstances as is likely to be offered as an alibi by the Foreign Office, Islamabad, to say the least, has been guilty of gross miscalculation in Geneva. And, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be made accountable for misleading the government and the people about the success of our campaign to win the international support." The paper added: "whether we like it or not, New Delhi has scored a major propaganda victory."

The Rawalpindi Urdu-language daily NAWAI-I-WAQT said in a 17 March editorial said "This indicates the weakness of the government's foreign policy. The withdrawal of the Pakistani resolution at a time when the United States, United Kingdom and most other countries of the world are acknowledging that Kashmir is a disputed territory, and when they are realizing that serious violation of human rights are being committed in occupied Kashmir, is quite amazing." The Islamabad Urdu-language daily KHABRAIN said in its 11 March editorial: "The decision will also affect the Kashmiri struggle negatively and Kashmiris will be gripped by a feeling of frustration."

Algeria

Army, Zeroual Reach 'Compromise' on Security

PM2903082294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Mar 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "As Zeroual Continues His Dialogues With Algerian Parties, a Call Within the Regime for the Formation of Armed Militias"]

[Excerpt] Paris—Algeria has for the past 10 days been witnessing a race in the top echelon of the Algerian regime between advocates of political dialogue as a solution to Algeria's crisis and advocates of intransigence who want both the armed and unarmed wings of the fundamentalist trend to be cut out of Algeria's political life.

As President Lamine Zeroual continues his dialogue contacts with the political parties—yesterday he met with representatives of the National Liberation Front [FLN] and Hamas [Islamic Society Movement]—the prime minister, the interior minister, and the secretary general of the Trade Unions Federation continue their campaign against dialogue and have proposed new ideas about formation of militias and distribution of arms to the public, that is to supporters of the regime, to break the intensity of the dual confrontation between the Army and the armed organizations and turn that into a multiple confrontation in which civilian sectors of the population would take part.

In a statement it issued yesterday after meeting with President Zeroual, Hamas said that the Algerian president confirmed that the political dialogue which he started about a week ago will include leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. It added that President Zeroual reaffirmed his determination to hold a serious dialogue without excluding any party and without any pressures, and that he also emphasized that the Army will respect any decisions made by the political authority to ensure success of the dialogue.

That implies a denial of last week's reprts about differences between President Zeroual and some Army commanders.

Despite that denial, informed sources have stressed that such differences did occur during the military command's three-day meeting 10 days ago.

However, there are those who say that both sides in the end agreed on a compromise solution based on combining what may be achieved through security confrontation and what may be achieved through serious dialogue with all parties, and agreed that if the recent security campaign achieves tangible results, it will enable the regime to negotiate from a position of strength and will restore the state's lost prestige. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Kill 3 Associates of GIA Leader

LD2503144094 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 25 Mar 94

[Excerpts] In Algeria, the security forces have once again struck a severe blow against the Armed Islamic Group, the GIA. A few days ago, three close associates of the leader of this terrorist movement were killed near Medea, some 100 km south of Algiers. Jerome Bastion reports:

[Bastion] [passage omitted] We learned today that three close associates of the leader of the GIA were killed by security forces in bushland about 100 km to the south of Algiers, in a region where a secret congress of clandestine Islamic groups was taking place. The congress is said to have discussed the unification of the armed resistance under the banner of the GIA. It was after this meeting that Djamel Zitouni, one of these warlords, was killed, and it seems that it was in retaliation for this blow that the two French nationals were executed on Tuesday evening.

61 Others Killed

LD2803130494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The security forces, who have intensified their operations over the last five days, have been able to kill 61 terrorists and arrest five others in a number of different regions of the country. [passage omitted]

France Expels 2 Algerians; Embassy Responds

LD2503230194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Mar 94

[Excerpt] After an expulsion order by French police, which was endorsed today by a French court, of Algerian nationals Mouloud Medaci and Abdelkrim Youbi on charges of participating in a demonstration in Lyon, the Algerian Embassy in Paris today issued a statement received by APS.

The statement says that Algeria, its representation, and consulates are today, more than at any other time, keen to hear the concerns of the Algerian expatriate community.

The embassy views the expulsion order by absolute necessity to be a measure which will lead to confusion in peoples' minds.

In the same statement, our embassy in Paris renews Algeria's commitment to protect its subjects. It believes it is necessary to recall ties of cooperation and interests between it and those countries close to it.

The statement says that any attempt which is likely to lead to the belief that the dignity of citizens could be the subject of a misunderstanding is simply unacceptable. [passage omitted]

Four Responsible for Russian Envoy's Death Killed

LD2903201094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpt] A communique from the security services said that the security forces killed 20 terrorists, and a number of others were arrested last Saturday [26 March] and Sunday.

The security services also said that four out of the six terrorists who carried out the assassination of the Russian diplomat and a member of the Foreign Ministry were killed yesterday.

The communique from the security services added that the director of the Algerian Red Crescent of Sidi Rached, in Tipaza province, was killed near his home yesterday by two terrorists. Another citizen was also killed in Tiaret. [passage omitted]

Further on Assassins

LD2903233994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Following a series of investigations, the security services reveal the identity of a number of the executors of the Saoula operation, which targeted a Russian national.

Through the investigations opened by the security services on the assassination of a Russian national yesterday in Saoula, south of the capital, it became clear that the Russian national used to frequent a spare-parts merchant and an ironmonger in the area.

The same sources pointed out that the victim had made an application to the two merchants to buy certain products 10 days earlier and arrived at the specified time in the same car he was using to receive the merchandise. This gave his assassins a chance to seize him, then assassinate him.

The same sources said that the security services, which immediately surrounded the place after they were informed of the operation, succeeded in killing and identifying four of the six armed members. The matter concerns Seddou Said, Chalmouh Ahmed, and Boutiche Yazid, who lived in Ouled Fayek and Douira [only three names as received].

The two armed persons sought out by the security services are Kisoume Omar and Zitouni Djamal.

The security sources reported that the search is still under way for Sayeh Atia, the main executor of the assassination of the governor of Tissemsilt and members of the accompanying delegation on 11 January last.

Egypt

Minister on Mubarak Efforts for Pan-Arab Security

NC2903112794 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 22 Mar 94 p 2

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has affirmed that President Husni Mubarak is trying to achieve inter-Arab reconciliation to overcome the repercussions of the Gulf war and find a new formula to end Arab differences and face the challenges of the Arab nation under the new economic and international order, in particular the GATT agreement and increased acts of violence and terrorism, within the framework of the new concept of pan-Arab security.

In statements made exclusively to AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I, the information minister said that pan-Arab security requires a decisive stance to review the current formula, which no longer consists of military security, stockpiling of weapons and arsenals, or mobilization of troops. He said that the new formula is centered on economic, political, military, security, media, and educational areas.

Safwat al-Sharif noted that the GATT agreement, acts of violence and terrorism, and cultural confrontation targeting the identity of the Arab nation are the main reasons why a new concept of pan-Arab security is necessary.

Responding to a question on the Egyptian role in the new formula, the information minister affirmed that President Husni Mubarak's meetings with King Husayn of Jordan and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih focused on how to overcome Arab differences and find a way to implement the new pan-Arab security plan.

The information minister said that Egypt, led by Mubarak, is the nerve of pan-Arab security and the force behind the Arab nation in the areas of education, manpower, economy, and military. Al-Sharif described the current formula of pan-Arab security as a fragile one based only on the bonds of language and history. He warned about the challenges and dangers of the future awaiting the Arab nation.

On the acts of violence in the Arab region and the export of terrorism by Arab countries, the information minister said that terrorism is also present in those countries that are currently exporting it. He demanded inter-Arab cooperation to confront terrorism by using all possible means to bolster security in the Arab region.

Regarding the pan-Arab security project recently proposed by the Arab League, the information minister said that this project, with some amendments and modernization, increases the Arab nation's ability to confront future challenges. He affirmed that current developments make it essential that Arabs overcome their differences and erase the effects of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Turkish President Telephones Mubarak

NC3003111594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Turkish President Suleyman Demirel today. They exchanged views on several world and regional issues of mutual interest. The also discussed issues concerning bilateral cooperation.

Columnist Urges Arabs To Normalize Iraqi Ties

NC2903102594 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Mar 94 p 9

["Closeup" Column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Normalization of Relations With Iraq"]

[Text] The Arab countries can no longer escape reconsidering their position on Iraq on a purely realistic, practical, and pragmatic basis free from emotion. The Arab countries should reconsider their stance on Iraq based on accurate, logical, rational, and long-term calculations to serve the Arab nation's interests, and even the interests of the neighboring countries that have been subjected to aggression from the current Iraqi regime.

After more than three years since the Gulf War, which led to the collapse of the old Arab system without bringing down the Iraqi regime, and in view of the failure of all efforts to establish a new system capable of assimilating Arab and international changes, it is necessary for the Arab world to look for other ways to bring the Iraqi regime back into the fold. The Arab world should not leave Iraq in its isolation at the mercy of the international forces, primarily the United States and Britain, which seek to use the current situation for their own interests.

What happened at the UN Security Council recently indicates that the international alliance, which was opposed to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and also encouraged Saddam Husayn and provided him with weapons and nuclear capability that made him the bully of the Gulf, has been beset by clear rifts. These rifts appeared in the differences among the Security Council members over the statement that it releases periodically on the extent of Iraq's compliance with Resolution 715 on subjecting its military resources to international supervision, which is a condition for lifting international sanctions.

France, Russia, and the PRC believe that there is a need to note in the statement the "progress" Iraq made in destroying banned arms instead of issuing the usual arbitrary statement on which the United States and Britain insist, a statement that maintains that Iraq has not complied with all the necessary conditions to lift the sanctions. By insisting on this usual statement the United States and Britain seek to achieve goals to entrench the current division of the Arab world, a division that will only increase Iranian influence and deepen suspicions and fragmentation within the Gulf Cooperation Council itself.

The United States usually uses the stick and carrot in its dealings, even with North Korea, but it only uses the stick with Iraq. France and Russia believe that "encouraging" Iraq by giving it time to watch its behavior and note its progress will motivate it to cooperate in all areas, notably recognition of the state of Kuwait.

It is strange indeed that when foreign countries are seeking to "normalize" ties with Iraq, the Arab countries, which are racing to normalize ties with Israel, find no justification to even consider reaching a minimum level of normalization with Iraq.

Brotherhood Leader Criticizes Clinton Policy

NC2903203394 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Mar 94 p 5

[Article by Mustafa Mashhur, Muslim Brotherhood deputy leader: "The People's Will Conquers, O Clinton"]

[Text] We thought the United States had learned a lesson in Vietnam, but then it got involved again in Somalia. Now it is facing a more bitter experience by adopting an explicit position in favor of the Zionist enemy and extending strong support to it. Clinton has repeated the Zionist enemy's statement that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the Zionist entity. The United States has also postponed the adoption of a resolution at the UN Security Council condemning the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron, although more than three weeks have elapsed since the carnage. At the same time, the United States has prevented the UN Security Council from adopting a resolution lifting the sanctions against Iraq in order to sell its oil. Thus we see that the United States is adopting a double standard.

This policy is unacceptable. The United States will only win the anger of all the Islamic peoples with this policy.

Has Clinton forgotten that there is a UN Security Council Resolution No. 252 from 1968, which confirmed the legal status of Jerusalem and stated that any measures aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem are invalid? This resolution called on the Zionist enemy to immediately refrain from any action that could lead to a change in the status of Jerusalem.

Do we understand from this that the United States has the authority to impose resolutions and cancel resolutions of the Security Council whenever it wishes?

We would like to ask Clinton: Would he accept it if some Jews or people from any other nationality were to occupy any U.S. state and do to its American citizens what the Zionists are doing to the Palestinians and establish settlements against the will of its people? Or would the situation be different?

Let Clinton know that people are brought into this world free and will not accept being treated like slaves. Every person is proud of his freedom. Freedom will triumph, and blood will be shed freely for the sake of freedom. The will of the peoples will conquer, and injustice will have a terrible end.

The United States had paved the way for the cancellation of the United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism. Is the al-Ibrahimi Mosque incident considered racism or democracy? Are these blood-smeared hands considered the source of terrorism, violence, and extremism? This U.S. policy is rejected by all the Islamic peoples. It implements the wishes of the Knesset which is seeking to establish a state from the Nile to the Euphrates.

We said before that this enemy is full of hatred toward the Muslims. The Koran acknowledged this when it said: "Strongest among men in enmity to the believers wilt thou find the Jews and pagans." But there are people, may God forgive them, who have sought to establish reconciliation and peace with them. The al-Ibrahimi Mosque incident revealed some of the hatred and rancor the Jews have in their hearts. They even regarded the settler who killed this large number of Muslims as their patron, because the killing of Muslims is considered a cult. One of the rabbis even said with complete insolence that a finger of a Jew is worth one million Muslims. This is despicable and rejected. The Muslim's blood is precious. Glory is to God, his messenger, and the faithful.

Perhaps those who have been deceived by peace and negotiations with this enemy have awakened from their heedlessness and have realized that it is impossible to achieve peace with it. The responsibility for the massacre was not limited to this settler. Others participated in it, and some soldiers also colluded with him. The responsibility is collective, involving even the head of the state. Otherwise, how can we explain the instructions to the soldiers to kill the Palestinian stone thrower and not to kill the Zionist settler who kills with bullets?

They are the killers of the prophets. Who knows, perhaps they are planning to accomplish something momentous with the advent of the year 1997, the 100-year anniversary of the Basel conference in Switzerland in 1897. After the massacre, they also provoked the Palestinians, killing and wounding scores of them. Furthermore, a curfew was imposed on Hebron from the day of the incident.

We then saw that all that Rabin and Clinton are concerned about is for the negotiations and the peace process not to be halted because of the massacre. These negotiations do not represent the Palestinian people. The Palestinian issue is not the issue of some Palestinians or some Arab rulers, but it is the issue of all the Muslims. We know that the United States resorts to the carrot and stick policy with some of these rulers and the few Palestinians represented by the PLO.

Let the United States and the Zionist enemy know that rulers change, but the peoples stay, and that the peoples' will conquers. Let them review their position on the Palestinian issue and the issues of Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest shrine. The Muslim peoples will not forsake the issue of Palestine and the al-Aqsa Mosque, irrespective of time and sacrifices.

To the Palestinians: We say to the Palestinians: Do not allow the Zionists to kill you from behind, but face them and defend yourselves and your land. This is a legitimate right. Know that your dead are in paradise and their dead are in hell. "So lose not heart, nor fall into despair, for ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith. If a wound hath touched you, be sure a similar wound has touched the others. Such days (of varying fortunes) we give to men and men by turn that God may know those that believe, and that He may take to Himself from your ranks Martyr-witnesses (to truth). And God loveth not those that do wrong. God's object also is to purge those that are true in faith and to deprive of blessing those that resist faith." And slacken not if following up the enemy. If ye are suffering hardships, they are suffering similar hardships; but ye have hope from God, while they have none." [Koranic verses]

To the Muslims in general: O Muslims, Islam is not a personal religion. It is the religion of one nation, one group, and even one body. If one member of this body complains, the entire body comes to help. O Muslims, appreciate the meaning of the one nation and one body. Do not slacken, weaken, or keep quiet. You must rise up from your sleep. The matter is very serious. The enemies of Islam have underestimated you and undervalued your lives as we have seen in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, and other places. They were disgraced as they left hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children to be killed and tens of thousands of women to be raped and killed.

O Muslims, do not believe in the international institutions. They have become puppets in the hands of the arrogant forces. Call on your rulers to play a strong role in these institutions. Otherwise, establish an Islamic league that cares for and manages the affairs of the Muslims, protect and defend them.

The enemies of Islam are after their own interests. The Muslims in the world can use the weapon of popular boycott of enemy goods. It is an effective weapon against them. We warn against the issues of the Middle Eastern market, normalization with the enemy, and ending the boycott of Israel. These are extremely important matters, because they work for the benefit of the enemy. The economic issue will be followed by political hegemony.

It is not becoming of 1.2 billion Muslims to surrender to slaughter, displacement, and rape. We must act, contemplate, and think about what must be done to fortify ourselves before what happened in Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina is repeated against us. The first thing we must do is return to God and fear Him, and then equip ourselves with all the means of strength. The first of these is strength of faith, then the strength of unity, the strength of weapons and education, and so forth. We must then have confidence that Almighty God will support us and make us triumph. God's book tells us about victory, God willing: "Until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in God." "Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest (it). It is he who hath sent His apostle with Guidance and the religion of truth to proclaim it over all religion, even though the pagans may detest (it)." [Koranic verses]

God has granted victory to his messenger and the few believers with him against the pagans in the Arabian Peninsula and against the Jews, Persians, and Greeks. If we follow the same path of God's messenger, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, God will grant us victory.

To the rulers of the Muslim countries: O rulers of the Muslim countries: Sense your responsibility for your Muslim peoples and cooperate with them. "Let not the strutting about of the unbelievers through the land deceive three: Little is it for enjoyment. Their ultimate abode is hell. What an evil bed (to lie on)." Purge your countries from what is objectionable and sinful that angers God. Educate your peoples about strength, fortitude, good character, and zeal for religion and your peoples will support you in the face of the enemy's treachery and even sacrifice their lives for you.

O rulers, all sedition fanned by the enemies between the Muslim countries and among the Muslims in the same country or between them and their rulers must be stopped.

Close your ranks according to God's book and his messenger's teachings and mend your differences. Respond to your Lord's order: "The believers are but a single brotherhood. So make peace and reconciliation between your two (contending) brothers; and fear God, that ye may receive mercy." "And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves. And remember with gratitude God's favor on you, for ye were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His grace ye became brethren." [Koranic verses]

This is the way, and there is no other one. Avoid violence and counter violence. Avoid anything that could weaken our Islamic countries.

God be my witness, I have conveyed the message.

Asyut Officials Accused of Supporting Terrorism

NC2803203094 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 23 Mar 94 pp 1, 9

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali]

[Text] A dispute has flared up between Asyut Governor Samih al-Sa'id and the People's Assembly members; each side is accusing the other of supporting terrorism. Escalating disputes have led Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to call an emergency meeting next week to be attended by members of the Consultative Council and municipal councils in the governorate.

The governor held an emergency meeting in the governorate last week. It was attended by popular leaders. During the meeting, the governor criticized some People's Assembly and Consultative Council members sharply and accused them of assisting terrorists and protecting them instead of doing their duty to support the popular resistance of terrorism, at a time when the security agencies are doing their utmost to catch terrorists and contain their activity.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Muhsin Salih, secretary of the National Democratic Party [NDP] in Asyut, expressed his belief that the Interior Ministry is engineering a conspiracy to embarrass Asyut's popular leaders. Muhammad Ahmad Husayn, Asyut deputy, and Jamil Abu-'Aqrab, Abu Tij deputy, blamed the NDP and corrupt officials for what is happening, particularly since everybody is competing for privileges and to obtain arms licenses for their family members. He claims that everybody is ignoring the expansion of terrorist activities in their villages and centers and in their families.

People's Assembly member 'Abd-al-Hafiz Abu-Hashish said that the seven terrorists who were killed recently in al-Zawiyah al-Hamra' in Cairo were located with the help of information provided by popular leaders in Asyut. But the security agencies overlooked this fact and gave all the credit to their men, he said.

When 'Abd-al-Muhsin Salih called for setting up popular committees in every village to stand up to terrorists, the governor replied angrily that the committee was formed two years ago on the orders of former Governor Major General Hasan al-Alfi, before he was appointed interior minister. It is known that al-Alfi encountered the same problems when he was governor of Asyut. President Mubarak intervened at the time to settle the dispute between the governor and popular leaders.

In another development, the security agencies in Asyut declared a maximum state of alert as a precaution against possible terrorist suicide operations in retaliation for the death of six members in the village of al-Balayzah and two others in al-Duwaynah, Abu-Tij, last Sunday, a senior security official in Asyut told AL-AHALI. A terrorist group attacked a police car on the way to the officers' guest house in Sadafa on the same day.

AL-AHALI has learned that the terrorists have set up four separate groups within the military wing so that the fall of one group will not lead the security apparatus to the remaining groups. The first group is in charge of attacking civilian targets, the second attacks trains and tourist cruises, the third banks, and the fourth attacks Coptic targets.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Palestinian Alliance Force

LD2503150594 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution received leaders of the Palestinian alliance forces: the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Islamic Jihad Movement, Fatah Movement-Intifadah, the Palestinian Liberation Front, the Palestinian Front for the Popular Struggle, the Palestinian Communist and Revolutionary Party, the Vanguards of the Palestinian Liberation Party, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas.

The Palestinian alliance forces have issued a statement in which they stressed that their meeting with the brother leader of the revolution falls within an awareness of the historic responsibility shouldered by the pan-Arab forces that are resisting the plans of submission and Zionist dominion. Within this framework, developments on the Arab and international arenas were discussed, in particular developments related to occupied Palestine in the aftermath of the massacres that are being committed by the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian people, the latest of which is the sacred Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

The statement reiterated the rejection of the Palestinian people and its revolutionary and pan-Arab forces of the unjust and unfair measures that are imposed against the Great Jamahiriyah by the so-called UN Security Council. The statement underlined that these measures are a result of the principled and firm stance of the Great Jamahiriyah and its commitment to issues of the Arab nation, foremost of which is its fundamental issue, Palestine, and its rejection of the U.S.-Western-Zionist domination plan.

These measures not only target the Arab Libyan people, but they also target the whole Arab nation. The sons of the Arab nations and its dynamic forces are called upon to work towards putting an end to the embargo, which they should not honor.

The statement pointed out that the leader's view of these developments truly expressed the (?Arab nation's) goals and aspirations and its adherence to its national and historical rights to protect its interests, wealth, and sovereignty.

The statement of the Palestinian alliance forces said that Jerusalem was a holy land for the divine religions and the capital of struggling Palestine. The masses of our people will never accept anything other than that and will resist the Zionist plan targeting its Arab nature, obliterating its history, and Judaising it.

Accusing our Palestinian people and our Arab and Islamic nation of terrorism was only a conspiracy against our right to freedom and life in order to force us to neglect our just humanitarian demands.

We do not practice terrorism, and we do not target unarmed innocents, as they do, but we seek freedom, which is guaranteed by all laws and divine codes and confirmed by human rights conventions.

We are for the just peace that guarantees the legitimate rights for our struggling Palestinian people and our fighting Arab and Islamic nation.

We reject and resist, and we call and mobilize the masses of the Arab and Islamic nation to resist and overthrow, the imposition of hegemony and domination in the name of peace.

The submission projects put forward through the Madrid process and Washington, the bilateral and multilateral talks, and the Oslo talks are considered an abandonment of our people and nation's rights that will not achieve peace. [passage omitted]

JANA Notes UK Reaction to Lockerbie Statement

LD2903161694 Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Tripoli/ al-Rabia'a 29 [29 March] / Jamahiriya News Agency—The British Government has rejected the Arab League's resolution concerning the trial of Libyan suspects in the (?Lockerbie) incident, with the League totally rejecting a (?trial) if it is to be held in the United States or (?Britain).

The Jamahiriya News Agency's international affairs editor commented on this saying that the decision made by the British Government exposes the true intention [word indistinct] the British Government to escalate it with the aim of carrying out an aggressive act against Libya and to inflict damage on its interests. This is [word indistinct] and parcel of previous (?attacks) carried out against Libya without regard for international law, without regard for the truth and without respect for the mediation which was undertaken by several countries. They also have no consideration for the ease with which the Great Jamahiriyah responded as well as the practical initiatives which are sufficient for reaching the truth and solving the problem from the very core. However, the three Western allies decided to ignore these and failed to reconsider their stance.

The important thing to do now is to develop the Arab position with the aim of having the embargo on the Great Jamahiriyah lifted through the channels of their compatriots in the Arab League, firstly and secondly through the Islamic Conference.

Chadian Delegation Arrives on Visit

LD2903152894 Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Tripoli/ al-Rabia'a 29 [29 March] / Jamahiriya News Agency—Abderahmane Izzo, the minister for the interior and security, Mamadou Mohammed [name as received], the Chadian defense minister and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday [word indistinct] a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Chadian interior minister expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Great Jamahiriyah in a statement to the Jamahiriya News Agency, the minister said that the reason for his and his delegation's visit to the Great Jamahiriyah was to complete the consultations which began in Ndjamena involving the two countries.

Talks Begin

LD2903225394 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Talks between Libya and Chad on bolstering bilateral cooperation relations started today. The opening meeting of the talks was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security and the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity. On the Chadian side the meeting was attended by Interior Minister Abderahmane Izzo, and brother Mamadou Mohammad, the minister delegate to the presidency in charge of national defense, war veterans, and war victims in Chad. The meeting was also attended by technical experts from both delegations.

Press Urges Chad To Cut Ties With France

LD2803091894 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] A Chadian ministerial delegation has arrived in the Libyan capital Tripoli to discuss Libya's withdrawal from the Aouzou Strip. As the delegation arrived, the Libyan press was calling on Chad to reconsider its relations with Paris. It has appealed to Ndjamena to cut its ties with France. The interest of the Chadian people, writes the Tripoli daily, AL-SHAMS, is to prevent the return of the colonialists in order to consolidate its relations with neighboring states. These comments undoubtedly reflect an official viewpoint. The same tone can be found in the columns of the daily AL-JAMAHIRIYAH, where France's involvement in Chad is described as harmful.

These anti-French attacks come at a time when Ndjamena is trying to obtain Libya's withdrawal from the Aouzou Strip. After the failure of initial contacts in Ndjamena on 17 March, Chad threatened to refer the dispute to the United Nations Security Council in order to force Libya to respect the verdict of the International Court in The Hague, which recognizes Chad's claim to the Aouzou Strip.

In this context, Libya's attacks against France look like a maneuver aimed at delaying its withdrawal from the Aouzou Strip. Moreover, Tripoli has had a grudge against France ever since France blamed Libyans for the bomb attack which downed a UTA plane in 1989. On the basis of a military accord with Chad, France has a military presence in Chad with the Epervier operation, which is not of course to Libya's liking.

JANA Editor Comments

LD2603123494 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] Tripoli, [date indistinct] Mar—JANA's African affairs editor has warned against the French collusive plan toward Chad's brotherly people.

He stressed that France, which was still dealing with Chad and African countries with a colonialist mentality, has not given up its desires in the African continent. France's dealings with Chad have always been within this framework. It was France that conspired against the Frolinat revolution. It toppled the former president Felix Malloum, conspired against Goukouni Oueddei and overthrew him, and is now conspiring against President Idriss Deby because it does not want this brotherly country to ever enjoy stability so that France can continue serving its interests in dominating and colonializing Chad.

The JANA African affairs editor said: We are confident that the Chadian people, who suffered from French colonialism's calamities and persistent conspiracies to hinder the establishment of stability and security in Chad, are well aware of what France is contriving against them and will not give colonialism the opportunity to come back to the region again.

Kuwait

North Yemenis Accused of Importing Chemical Weapons

JN3003062394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Military sources close to Yemeni Defense Minister Haytham Qasim have said in Aden that the north Yemenis have imported various types of chemical weapons and ammunition from East European states through a Jewish arms dealer known for his close ties with Zionist circles that are very active in these states.

Defense Ministry sources in Sanaa categorically denied this. They said such claims tarnish the image of Yemen and obstruct the implementation of the pledge and accord document signed in Amman to achieve Yemeni reconciliation. Defense Ministry sources in Sanaa said an officer called Colonel 'Ali al-Hadi, a member of the south Yemeni Socialist Party and armament director at the Defense Ministry, is currently in an East European state to make a deal to purchase long-range missiles against the will of the Defense Ministry in Sanaa.

In another development, Yemeni newspapers spoke about a recent clash between the northern and southern forces in the Shabwah area in southern Yemen, in which five were killed. A north Yemeni source, however, said it was a clash between tribes and only two were killed.

More on Allegations

PM3003095894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah: "Aden: Sanaa Importing Chemical Weapons"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Aden—A statement issued by the Defense Ministry in Aden accuses "the economic military establishment in the capital, Sanaa, of importing various types of internationally banned chemical weapons and ammunition from a number of East European countries."

The statement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH received in Aden yesterday, says: "These weapons and ammunition are imported through a Jewish dealer who has strong links and ties with the Zionist centers of influence formed recently in a number of East European states."

The statement, which falls within the framework of the resumption of media campaigns between the southern forces supporting the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and the northern forces supporting the General People's Congress, describes "the weapons brought to Yemen recently as weapons of mass destruction like those which have been and are still being destroyed in Iraq and which are banned in other states."

The statement says: "The military-economic establishment is a close commercial establishment controlled directly by the ruling military family in Sanaa. It controls most trade activities in the republic without the knowledge of the government and the House of Representatives."

The YSP, which controls Aden, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], which is led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, traded accusations yesterdays. The YRG said that houses belonging to its supporters in Aden has been stormed, while security sources in the city said that large quantities of weapons had been confiscated in hideouts in the city.

The sources added that "the security services in Aden have over the past two days discovered large quantities of weapons which were smuggled in secretly and delivered to terrorist elements belonging to the Jihad organization in Yemen." The sources said that "interrogations of the suspects accused of acquiring the weapons have shown that they belong to a major Islamic party in the country"—a clear reference to the YRG. [passage omitted]

Reform Grouping Source Denies 22 Killed in Clashes

JN2903173894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Sanaa, 29 Mar (INA)—A source in the Yemeni Reform Grouping, a party to the Yemeni coalition, has denied the reports that 22 of its cadres were killed in the governorate of Shabwah in eastern Yemen in recent clashes with forces loyal to the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP].

In statements to the INA correspondent in Sanaa reported today, the source asserted that these reports are untrue because no clashes erupted between the Reform Grouping and any other party in this governorate.

Syria, Egypt To Play 'Important Part' in Resolving Crisis

PM2903151694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Mar 94 p5

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Gulf Support for Egyptian-Syrian Mediation in Yemen"]

[Text] Damascus—Political sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syria and Egypt intend to play an important part in resolving the Yemeni crisis. They said that the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and Yemen, who are now in Cairo to attend the Arab League Council's meeting, will, after the Arab League meetings, hold talks to redefine the framework for future action. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a closed meeting in Damascus last Thursday. They discussed Yemeni developments and ways of ending the disputes and restoring stability to the state of unity. It was not known what agreement was reached by the two presidents and there was no indication of their future plans.

Yemeni sources, however, have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, during his visit to Damascus, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih tried to "break the ice" between him and Syria and to regain Syria's trust after the position he took during the Gulf war. His closed meeting with President al-Asad lasted one and a half hours. The talks were frank and in depth.

Yemeni opposition sources said that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih realized the terrible mistake he made when supporting Saddam Husayn during the invasion and the Gulf war, and he has been trying to restore confidence and understanding with the states which supported Kuwait. They added that none of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] members attended the Syrian-Yemeni meetings despite the official announcement—according to the list sent from Yemen—that YSP Political Bureau Member and Fish Resources Minister Fadl Muhsin would be a member of the Yemeni delegation. The sources said that the Syrian move coincided with a similar Egyptian move on Yemen, with Gulf support based on confidence in these two states and the fact that neither has any ambitions in Yemen. President Hafiz al-Asad might invite President Salih, Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and other leaders to Damascus for a dialogue to end the crisis. Al-Bid had himself expressed support for such a move. Syria and Egypt are expected to uphold the Pledge and Accord Document and act as a third-party witness to that.

Diplomatic sources believe that Syria and Egypt might, with Arab League approval, send military forces to Yemen in the event of a threat of a military explosion and partition there. They add that the Yemeni parties would be well advised to take this matter into consideration and show commitment to stability in Yemen. They sources also say that President al-Asad has so far been focusing on restoring trust between the Yemeni parties and finding common grounds for understanding among them on the way to ending the crisis.

Al-'IRAQ on UNSC Call, Ekeus' Monthly Briefing

JN2903110494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0842 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has described the UN Security Council's decision to invite Special Commission Chairman Ekeus to make a monthly review of the details of his commission's work and the progress that it makes as an important step reflecting greater appreciation by the UN Security Council states of Iraq's cooperation.

In an article today, the paper, which is issued here, stresses the need for a specific mechanism for the commission's work and activities. It says matters should not be left undecided and unspecific, something that would exclude any possible action to swiftly implement Paragraph 22 of Part C of Resolution 687.

The paper says that throughout the past period, it was clear from the way the commission conducted its business that the commission was procrastinating despite Iraq's sincere cooperation, and although its various subcommittees visited Iraq dozens of times and submitted authenticated and detailed reports testifying to Iraq's cooperation.

The paper explains that under U.S. pressures, the commission was involved in gimmicks and sharp contradictions between what has actually been achieved on the ground and Commission Chairman Ekeus' unsubstantiated statements.

The paper adds: Iraq is aware of the causes of U.S. pressures on the commission and the attempts to force it not to acknowledge facts. Iraq is also aware of the way nations' issues are run and discussed inside the halls of the UN Security Council and how plots are concocted and facts falsified to control other peoples' and their wealth, preventing them from exercising their independent free will. The paper notes that all this takes place under slogans of "international legitimacy and international law."

The paper says experience has proved the practices of United States and its satellites inside and outside the UN Security Council are a very long way from true legitimacy, law, and justice. These nations are ready to ignore all ethical and human standards for the sake of their colonialist interests and global policies.

The paper stresses that after the recent UN Security Council's decision, the Special Commission should be freed of U.S. influence and hostile polices against Iraq. The commission should deal with facts impartially, objectively, and fairly, and it should not be dragged to unjust stands that further increase the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Concluding its article, AL-'IRAQ says fair people in this world have become absolutely convinced that any delay in lifting the blockade can be classified as a major crime whose responsibility rests with the sides that obstruct the adoption of the only resolution that reflects responsibility, justice, and law—a resolution lifting the blockade.

AL-THAWRAH Comments

JN3003084994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Mar (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper describes the UN Security Council's instructions for Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus to submit a monthly progress report as the right beginning for neutralizing intense pressure being applied by certain quarters to influence council resolutions.

In an article published today, the paper calls it a qualitative shift and positive step indicative of a growing sober, understanding, and fair approach uninfluenced by an antagonistic United States out to manipulate the commission's work and steer it away from its declared goals.

The progress the commission will report will be a virtual certificate that the international community is increasingly showing an understanding of Iraq's cooperation vis-a-vis Resolutions 686 and 715.

The paper applauds the constructive and fair stands of France, Russia, the PRC, and Brazil during the council's debate at which the the four countries departed from the U.S. position calling for dragging the sanctions out.

This positive development at the Security Council would not have been possible had it not been for Saddam Husayn's letter of facts, carried to the council by the Iraqi delegation. Credit must also go to Iraq's proven capacity for steadfastness and tenacity.

This appreciable change at the council clearly shows a conflict of interests between these states and Washington, which tries to commandeer and monopolize decision making for its own ends. It is also the result of Iraq standing up for its legitimate rights and its valiant resistance to all pressure and blackmail, AL-THAWRAH concludes.

Statement Issued on UN Helicopter 'Incident'

JN2903185594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1802 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA)—Commenting on the statement issued by the UN Special Commission yesterday on what it described as an attack with stones by a group of people on a helicopter belonging to the Commission at Saddam Hospital in Mosul, northern Iraq, an official spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stated the following:

1. Three helicopters belonging to the UN Special Commission have been operating in Iraq since late 1991.

These helicopters carry out the tasks assigned by the UN Special Commission in accordance with Resolutions 687 and 715.

2. In emergency cases, the UN Special Commission requests that Iraq agree to the use of these helicopters in medical evacuation operations for other UN organizations. For humanitarian reasons, Iraq has agreed on such sorties, despite the fact that the missions of these helicopters have nothing to do with medical evacuations for organizations other than the UN Special Commission.

3. On 26 March, the Special Commission requested that Iraq give permission for one of the helicopters to carry out medical evacuation from Mosul to Baghdad for two UN guards at Saddam General Hospital. Iraq agreed to the request for humanitarian reasons, and the helicopter's route was defined from the al-Rashid Air Base in Baghdad to the Ibn-Firnas Air Base in Mosul.

4. On 27 March, a helicopter belonging to the Special Commission, accompanied by an Iraqi helicopter, left Baghdad for Mosul. A few minutes before arriving at the Ibn-Firnas Air Base in Mosul, UN elements accompanying the two UN guards at Saddam Hospital in Mosul contacted the Special Commission's helicopter and requested that it land at Saddam Hospital because the ambulance at this hospital was not fit for transferring the wounded to the Ibn-Firnas Air Base.

5. When the helicopter approached the base, the pilot of the UN Special Commission's helicopter requested that Iraq change the landing area and to make it the Saddam Hospital in Mosul. Despite the fact that the Iraqi side knew that this request would be difficult to meet due to the existence of technical and administrative obstacles that require advance preparation, it responded to the request for humanitarian reasons and based on the Special Commission's pledge that the landing at the hospital would be on their own responsibility.

6. When the Special Commission's helicopter landed suddenly in the Saddam Hospital area, which is a residential area, some of the citizens, visitors of the Saddam Hospital, assembled and expressed spontaneous anger by throwing stones at the helicopter. These feelings are not at all strange to Iraqis these days.

7. The accompanying Iraqi side did all that it could to protect the Special Commission's helicopter and its crew, and through their efforts, they were able to control the situation. Three accompanying Iraqis and a UN employee were slightly wounded as a result of the stone hurled at them. Among those who were wounded was the accompanying Iraqi pilot. The Special Commission's helicopter also sustained slight damage as a result of stones hitting it. Afterwards, the helicopter accomplished its mission and transported the two injured UN guards to Baghdad peacefully.

8. The abovementioned facts show that the incident, which was limited and spontaneous, was the result of the Special Commission's miscalculation by changing the landing area from the air base to a residential area in the center of Mosul. All this took place only a few minutes before the scheduled landing at the air base. From a technical and security viewpoint, this made it difficult, in fact impossible, for the Iraqi side to secure a new landing site due to the shortness of time, and in light of the fact that the Special Commission's pilots changed the landing area at their own responsibility. Facts also prove that Iraq exerted every effort to control the situation. This fact was recognized and appreciated by the German crew of the helicopter.

IRNA Cites 'Source' on Army-Civilian Clashes

LD2903164694 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), March 29, IRNA—Iraqi military forces arrested a number of villagers around Sulaymaniyah in the northeast on charges involvement in an attack on Iraqi Army personnel near the city.

A source close to Iraqi mujahideen said today that Iraqi forces also destroyed houses of villagers and set ablaze their farms.

He added that the villagers in retaliation killed a number of Iraqi forces.

The source neither clarified the date of the recent arrest nor the time when the clashes flared up around Sulaymaniyah.

Presidential Adviser Assails Gulf States on Oil Prices

JN2703205394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Mar 94 p 4

[Text] Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, adviser at the Presidency, has said that excessive oil production by certain Arab states has led to the deterioration of oil prices and greatly harmed national and pan-Arab economies.

At a symposium yesterday, organized by the Iraqi Economists Association and attended by Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj, Dr. Hammadi said that this intentional excessive production by some Arab regimes such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has caused a glut in world oil markets, causing a deterioration of the Arab oil price, which has dropped to $7 per barrel after it had been $34 per barrel.

Dr. Hammadi added: The Arab economy in general is essentially based on one commodity—oil—as a main source of revenue for economic development. This deterioration in the price of oil has caused large balance of payment deficits in several Arab states, affected development plans, and compelled the Arabs to seek foreign aid under terms that have affected their economic and political independence.

Dr. Hammadi wondered about the reason behind this situation, which has burdened the Arab states with financial losses amounting to $1 trillion between 1987 and 1992. He said the reason was that these regimes have thrown themselves into the lap of U.S. policy.

Columnists Highlight UNSC 'Split' Over Iraqi Blockade

JN2803180194

[Editorial report] Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic on 20 and 21 March 1994 publish a number of articles by Iraqi columnists commenting on the "split" within the UN Security Council during its latest periodic review of the blockade on Iraq. The columnists are unanimous that the split indicates an erosion of U.S. influence in the Council and growing sympathy with Iraq.

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 March carries on page one a 500-word article by Taha al-Basri entitled: "The Blockade Is Bound To Be Eroded." Al-Basri writes that the heated debate within the UN Security Council over the statement it normally releases after every review of the blockade "is tangible proof that the unusual Iraqi steadfastness and the wise leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn have borne fruit and that the blockade will sooner or later be eroded." The article adds that after more than three years of U.S. absolute domination of the Council "differences have emerged for the first time, splitting the members into two groups." The article continues: "Events of the past three days have clearly shown that a large majority of the members are now convinced that Iraq has the right to demand the lifting of the blockade after it has fulfilled its obligations under the Council resolutions." The article concludes: "By doing so, the member states are defending: first, the interests of their own countries; and second, the clear right that Iraqi diplomacy has been trying to explain to them all along."

The paper also publishes in its "Standpoint" column on page two an 800-word article by 'Isa Isma'il al-'Abbadi entitled: "UN Majority is With Iraq." Referring to the split within the Security Council, the article says: "Most big powers, especially France, China, and Russia, and the overwhelming majority of the world states have realized that the United States and Britain are playing a dirty political game that has nothing to do with UN resolutions and regulations, but has a great deal to do with their narrow-minded interests and their calculations to harm the Iraqi people and the other world nations, which have been affected by the unjust blockade that has been imposed on Iraq for more than three years." The article adds: "The U.S. and British Administrations must understand that the world around them is changing and that Iraq has rights and is an influential factor in the region and the world." Concluding, the article says that the world, which is speeding toward the 21st century, aspires for "balanced relations based on common interests, common concern for human progress, and justice."

The paper further publishes in its "Attention" column on page tree a 500-word article by Hasan al-Kashif entitled: "After the Non-Resolution." This item too refers to the split within the Security Council and the failure of the member states to come out with the usual periodic statement. It notes that this "non-resolution on the blockade has come as a big resolution to end the United States' new world order," thanks to Iraq's steadfastness and sacrifices under its great historic leader Saddam Husayn. It has also proven, the article adds, that "Washington is not suitable for the role of arbiter, because it has not discarded the garb of pirate and colonialist and is still influenced by the tendencies of domination, plunder, and even invasion and occupation." The article says that by supporting the "clear, firm facts" the UN Security Council members "have regained their role, position, and the respect of world nations and governments, which believe in peace, stability, justice, and fairness. "As for the Arabs," the article concludes "they are put before a test for the umpteenth time. They should either act as Arabs or remain mere followers of U.S. policy and thus fall behind the honest stands by governments of even non-Arab states. This is what we do not wish for any honest Arab."

The paper also publishes in its "Windows" column on page seven a 150-word article by Diya' Hasan entitled "The Split Has Occurred and the Rest Will Follow." The columnist notes that the important thing is that a split has occurred in the UN Security Council and that the majority has not given an easy "yes" this time. The article adds that despite the decision to continue the blockade for two more months, this time the decision did not come "by a mere hand signal from America's Madeleine Albright," but following a grueling debate lasting more than two days. The article adds: "The good thing about what happened was the anxiety expressed by some Security Council member states over Tariq 'Aziz's message to the Council, because it vehemently asserted Iraqi rights and pointed to the duties and obligations of the Council, which the Americans and British considered rather excessive under the prevailing logic in the world organization; that is, the logic of superiority and hegemony. But the message was intended to break the back of that useless logic." The article concludes that the Iraqi message succeeded in creating the split, which will be further widened if the member states also act according to their own national interests.

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 March 1994 publishes in its "Standpoint" column on page two an 800-word article by Sabri Hammadi entitled: "What Does This Split Mean?" Hammadi says the split in the Security Council must have disturbed and embarrassed the U.S. Administration, proving that the Council is no longer "a mere section of the U.S. State Department devoted to serving the aims and interests of the United States and its pampered protege, Israel. Here are three permanent member states in the Council saying no to U.S. hegemony and defending their interests and prestige as big powers." The article adds: "Of course, we do not want to exaggerate by considering the split that occurred as the desired change in the Security Council that will put an end to U.S. tyranny and monopolization. What took place was, however, the beginning of a new phase in the relationship between the permanent member states." The article concludes: "True, despite its significance, the clear split within the Security Council did not achieve the objectives aspired by Iraq, but it must also be said that what happened was a serious and promising start for a more just and fair international stand responding to Iraq's rights and legitimate demands."

AL-QADISIYAH Rejects Middle East Market Concept

JN2803130094

[Editorial Report] Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic carries in its 10 March issue on page 3 an approximately 4,000-word article by Sami Mahdi under the headline "The Middle East Market Between Solid Facts and Flimsy Justifications" in which the writer explains why Israel has an interest in establishing a Middle East market, how the Arabs would lose from such an economic entity, and why the Egyptian regime promotes it through its press and officials.

Speaking about Egypt's role, the writer says: "It has become clear that the Egyptian regime is the one which champions such a call among the Arabs for opportunistic and selfish reasons" and because the Egyptian regime "seeks a role for Egypt other than the natural one it assumes within its Arab environment and because it wants to take quick steps toward normalization with the Zionist enemy after it used to be afraid or to hesitate in taking such steps."

Continuing to speak about Egypt's role in this respect, the article says: "It would be politically naive to deal with a historic enemy of the Arab nation which has established its parasitic entity by usurping its lands, plundering its rights, and flouting its dignity." The article wonders about the blind Egyptian confidence in an enemy "which has not given up, as yet, its designs to swallow more Arab land and targets Arab resources such as water and oil?"

Explaining why such a market is impossible to establish, the writer says: "The enmity between the Arabs and the Zionists is not a transient one, originating from temporary differences between two countries and which can be settled during negotiations and later forgotten. It is a historical enmity between a usurper which not only does not want to give up what it had usurped but seeks to usurp more, and the victim which is asked to give up its rights by force under the canopy of unequal circumtances."

The article says that under the plan for a Middle East Market, Israel would gain everything such as new markets, the possibility to exploit oil sources, and many investment opportunities while "the Arab nation is asked to give up its unity, sacrifice its cultural identity, forget its usurped rights, and submit to a fait accompli." The article contnues: "It would be better for those who champion the establishment of economic blocs and those who search for benefits to be gleaned from such blocs to join their voices, if they are sincere, to those advocating Arab economic unity, or at least to those who call for an Arab common market that will fulfill the aspired objectives." The writer further says: "The establishment of an economic unity, or common market among countries which belong to the same nation is the most logical, scientific, objective, and concrete action which is in harmony with historical and geogrqaphic considerations and with the masses' present and future aspirations." The writer adds: "As for the Middle East market, it will be a market of material gains in which the Arab nation's enemies, the usurpers of its land and those who covet its resources will have their say and the lion's share."

Concluding, the writer says "The Middle East market is needed for specific reasons that serve the Zionist entity alone, legalize its usurpation, provides it with stability and security, solve its economic bottlenecks, realize the Zionist scheme, and enable it to systematically plunder Arab resources." The article ends by asking "what forces Arabs to give up their pan-Arab project and rush down the road to a Middle East market?"

Non-Iraqis Reportedly Banned From Owning, Investing in Iraq

JN2703162394 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 21 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Majid al-Lami]

[Text] Baghdad—AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that the Revolution Command Council has decided to suspend the laws and decrees allowing non-Iraqis to own real estate and invest money in companies within Iraq. The suspension applies to all aspects of ownership or investment activity.

Police, Army on Alert as Arabs Mark Land Day

TA3003053994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Arab towns and villages in Israel hold a general strike today to mark Land Day. Security forces and police are out in force today to prevent disturbances. Leaders of the Israeli Arab community have promised Police Minister Moshe Shahal and senior police officers that they will work to ensure quiet during the many rallies scheduled. More from reporter Dani Gur-Arye:

[Begin recording] The day each year in which Israeli Arabs protest government confiscation of land will be marked this year in the shadow of the Hebron massacre and recent incidents in the territories. For the first time in years shops, schools, and public offices will be closed throughout the Arab sector. Rallies are expected in the main cities and towns. Police are hoping the demonstrations will be held quietly, but are prepared to deal with disturbances. Arab leaders have asked the public to refrain from outbursts of violence. [passage omitted]

On March 30 18 years ago policemen opened fire on Arabs demonstrating against confiscation of land. Six Israeli Arabs were killed. This year Police Minister Moshe Shahal says police will concentrate on safeguarding the main roads, but will not enter the population centers. The main rally will be held this afternoon for the first time in the Bedouin town of Rahat. A month ago police shot dead a youth in Rahat in the riots following the Hebron massacre. Both sides are hoping to avoid similar incidents today. [end recording]

In the territories as well, security forces are on alert to prevent trouble on Land Day. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] plans to keep forces away from Palestinian population centers, to prevent unnecessary friction, and to avoid as much as possible any casualties. At the same time the Army will be out in force along major access routes. [passage omitted]

Eight Israelis Injured in Riots; Curfews Imposed

TA2903140994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] In riots in the territories today, three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and a border policeman were lightly injured. Another four Israeli civilians were lightly injured by stones. The epicenter of today's riots was in Nabulus, 27 Palestinian residents were wounded, two of them gravely. Riots took place in Tulkarm and Janin as well. The IDF imposed a curfew on Nabulus and Tulkarm. This was reported by our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz.

75 Arabs Injured During Incidents in Territories

TA2903201994

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 29 March reports: "Two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were slightly injured when stones were thrown at them in the al-Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah tonight. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in Khan Yunus, terrorists fired several rounds at a Border Police base. No one was hurt. The policemen returned fire and the terrorists fled.

"An explosive device was hurled at an IDF patrol in the al-Nusayrat refugee camp. The device exploded, but no one was injured. Several Molotov cocktails were thrown at IDF patrols in the village of Awsarin near Nabulus and in Qabatiyah near Janin. There were no casualties in either incident.

"Border policemen forcibly dispersed dozens of settlers who tried to enter the Cave of the Patriarchs and to pray there tonight."

An announcer-read report on Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 29 March states that "a total of 75 Palestinians were wounded in the territories today. In a leaflet disseminated today, the Gaza chapter of Fatah calls on residents to clash with IDF troops and to hold a three-day general strike."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 29 March reports: "In the wake of riots staged in the vicinity of schools in most the West Bank today, the defense establishment has decided to close all the Arab schools in Judaea and Samaria. The Nabulus University was closed by its board of directors after riots and clashes with soldiers were staged near the university."

Betzelem: Soldiers 'Deliberately' Fired in Jabalyah

TA2903173994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The Betzelem Human Rights Organization demands an inquiry into yesterday's incident in the Jabalyah refugee camp, in which six Fatah members were killed by gunshots fired by undercover IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

Betzelem says that a probe conducted by its personnel reveals that the event was initiated by the IDF unit and that the soldiers deliberately opened fire without a warning and without firing in the air. According to Betzelem, the first round of fire was followed by another, which was apparently meant to ensure that the masked men were dead.

Update on Shamgar Commission Deliberations

TA2903175894

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1130 GMT on 29 March reports: "The Shamgar Committee hearings on the Hebron massacre today tried to clarify two outstanding questions regarding the morning of the massacre: Why a policeman was not at his post at the Cave of the Patriarchs, and why three Border Police were late reaching the site? More from No'omi Segal:

"What emerged in testimonies on the failure of security arrangements to work properly on the morning of the massacre was a broken chain of command. In contradiction to an earlier testimony by head of Central Command Dani Yatom regarding the stationing of a policeman at the Cave of Patriarchs, commander of the Judaea District Police Moshe Mizrahi testified there was no standing order for a police officer to be present at the site. An alternative arrangement called for a police van to patrol the area, Mizrahi said, but on the morning of the massacre the police scheduled to patrol were unaware it was their turn.

"Eli Moyal, the Border Police duty officer the night before the massacre, answered questions on why three Border Police failed to reach their posts. I prepared a list of who had to be working, Moyal said, but the morning duty officer changed it. By the time three other Border Police were waken, it was too late, he said.

"Qiryat Arba' resident Eli'ezer Spitzer, who was in the jeep that gave Barukh Goldstein a lift to the Cave of the Patriarchs, also appeared before the commission. Spitzer said he noticed nothing unusual about Goldstein's behavior and, in response to the judges question, could not recall what kind of weapon Goldstein had.

"The commission tried to verify contradictions in testimony by a Muslim worshiper who was in the Cave of the Patriarchs at the time of the massacre, 'Abd-Rabbuh al-Atrash. He told the judges he heard two explosions and then firing, not one explosion, as he earlier told police.

"At this hour, Pinhas Eidelstein, who is the duty communications officer in Qiryat Arba', is appearing before the commission. Miryam Goldstein called Eidelstein minutes before the massacre, urging him to contact her husband. The judges are trying to clarify if there was anything in her tone that indicated alarm."

At 1600 GMT, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English further reports: "Police Commissioner Rafi Peled testified this afternoon before the commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre. He is now testifying behind closed doors. He told the Shamgar Committee there are different instructions for opening fire for the Army and the police. He intends to meet with the Central Command general to draft an order that would be acceptable to both the Army and police, but until then, the present orders would remain in force. Peled complained that a small force of police operating in the territories, and said that, in fact, police work boiled down to giving an appearance of law, instead of law enforcement. For instance, in Hebron there was one patrol of eight policemen—the bare minimum for doing the work—but this was better than in Yattah, where there were no policemen at all, and law was not enforced."

Sharon Urges 'Passive' Resistance to Evacuation

TA2903195594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon urges Hebron's Jewish settlers and their supporters to conduct a quiet, nonviolent, and unarmed struggle to secure their residence in Hebron, if the government decides to evacuate them. He was interviewed by our party affairs correspondent Menashe Raz:

[Begin recording] [Sharon] I think every effort should be made to avert an evacuation. I would like to urge all Israelis to engage in passive resistance to the evacuation. I am against harming IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers or the security forces in any way. I am speaking about passive resistance by tens of thousands of people, who should come empty-handed—I stress, empty-handed, without any weapons whatsoever, because provocation of any kind should be prevented—people who should persistently engage in resistance. If, God forbid, they manage to evacuate a certain place, tens of thousands of people should return there and resist the evacuation in a passive manner. In my view, right now this is the only, the ultimate move that can be undertaken against the insane actions of the government which is surrendering to PLO dictums—although it says the decision was its own—by evacuating Jews. [passage omitted]

[Raz] Will you be there yourself, when the time comes?

[Sharon] I will be there in person. [end recording]

Gur: Palestinian Group Responsible for Latest Katyusha

TA2503122294 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Mar 94 p 18

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by On Levi; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Levi] Was the latest katyusha shelling a violation of the agreement reached after Operation Accountability?

[Gur] The latest katyusha shelling was apparently carried out by one of the Palestinian organizations which broke away from the PLO in the wake of the peace accord.

[Levi] We seem to be lenient toward those Palestinian organizations since it was the second katyusha attack in the past month.

[Gur] We are not tolerant with anybody who shells us. I do not wish to go into all the operational, intelligence, and political problems, but you can be sure about one thing—that we make every effort to locate them and reach them immediately and effectively, and I am certain we will do so.

[Levi] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] required more than 20 hours to defeat four terrorists in Hebron.

[Gur] That is because of the tactics used, because of the fact we operated in a built-up area, since we want to reduce to a minimum the number of civilians harmed and to reduce to zero the risk to our fighters. It does not point to any reduction in the IDF's offensive capability. We have already stormed, conquered, and blown up much larger installations. The two constraining factors I mentioned above were very important, and that is why those tactics were used. They are special tactics for a built-up area of that type against a very defined target.

Chief of Staff Affirms IDF 'Duty' To Enforce Law

TA2903182594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Touring the Gaza Strip today, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, said it is the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] supreme duty to enforce law and order on Arabs and Jews alike. He further said that to foil terrorist attacks, officers and soldiers have to be alert and vigilant. An instant reaction by a soldier who finds himself on the scene of an attempted attack can make all the difference between a successful or a foiled attack.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the chief of staff inspected the preparations for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

IDF Intelligence Chief Interviewed

TA2703121694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (PESAH supplement) in Hebrew 25 Mar 94 pp 2, 3, 26

[Interview with Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF Intelligence Branch, by Smadar Peri; place and date not given]

[Text] [Peri] This week, 'Arafat complained that his standing had been weakened as a result of the Hebron massacre. Do you believe that he really represents the Palestinian people?

[Sagi] I believe 'Arafat is not the only one who has been weakened. The Hebron massacre has undermined the ability of Palestinians and Israelis in general to conduct a dialogue. This despicable incident has exposed the raw nerves of the Arab-Israeli conflict—and especially of the struggle between Palestinians and Israelis—with all its religious, national, traditional, and cultural aspects.

'Arafat's standing has been greatly weakened in the territories. His pictures are no longer proudly displayed in the homes of the relatives of the Hebron massacre victims. 'Arafat, however, is the symbol of the PLO, which is the largest and most dominant organization. True, 'Arafat is facing a lot of opposition in the territories, even without the massacre, with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] being the most prominent example. Public opinion in the territories, however, is less sensitive to political nuances and cares far more about security, standard of living, and being able to run their own affairs. Clearly, the more difficulty 'Arafat encounters in implementing his agreements with us, the weaker he will become. Time plays a critical role in his success in achieving what he regards as a favorable political settlement. If 'Arafat fails, his position will be undermined even further.

[Peri] Let me quote 'Ali Jad, a representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Jerusalem, who said: "Beware, 'Arafat, you are not going to live for long."

[Sagi] These kind of statements are made by the rejectionist organizations which have political representatives as well as militant activists in the territories.

[Peri] Do you believe that 'Arafat's life is in danger?

[Sagi] The fact is that the lives of all political leaders who represent only part of their constituents are in danger. I think that 'Arafat's life—just like the lives of other leaders who represent undemocratic societies—is in danger. Especially if they take politically daring steps.

'Arafat's life expectancy depends, of course, on his ability to achieve a political arrangement. If and when he fails, we can assume that he will disappear. Paradoxically, if the political arrangement is a success, new and younger leaders from inside the territories will emerge. They are familiar with the conditions, the standard of living, and the security needs. They are much more knowledgeable about daily life than those who live in Tunis.

[Peri] Despite the differences between the Palestinians there appears to be one common denominator: they all want a Palestinian state.

[Sagi] There is no doubt about that. Their attitude has not changed. Although there is a higher degree of political realism in the territories now, they do not conceal their aspiration to establish a Palestinian state. 'Arafat, like the others, openly speaks about it. We expect them to demand the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Moreover, in the Gaza-Jericho First concept, 'Arafat was at great pains to try very hard to include elements with clear links to the permanent arrangement; or in other words, the Palestinian state.

[Peri] Do you believe that 'Arafat will be able to deliver the goods when he arrives in Jericho?

[Sagi] There is no doubt that the ideological dream may shatter when he assumes control and is confronted by the harsh and mundane reality. I do not think that 'Arafat was ever very good at handling daily affairs, nor do I believe that they particularly interest him. At any rate, he makes no secret of his ambitions, which are greater than running things in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. In his opinion, he is the president of some sort of political entity.

I therefore believe that he will engage in political activities that will necessitate his being abroad most of the time. According to his viewpoint, he would prefer not being mayor of Jericho at this stage. If and when the situation changes, he will set up permanent residence.

[Peri] When you talk about 'Arafat's trips abroad, are you referring to fund collection drives?

[Sagi] I mean taking care of the Palestinian economy, especially the budget. It is no secret that 'Arafat and very few of his closest associates have total control over the PLO budget.

[Peri] The PLO's economic situation is bad.

[Sagi] I cannot, understandably, present the PLO budget to the readers. Since the Gulf War the condition of the organization has deteriorated and external budget sources have quite closed up. They have certain reserves indeed, and I understand that the Sumud [as published] which is a senior economic organization controls the budget reservoirs, but in general, in my opinion, the PLO's financial condition is quite dire.

[Peri] This is a pessimistic picture of the situation to those who believe it is possible to disintegrate Hamas through financial temptations.

[Sagi] The PLO by itself, without outside aid and contributions, cannot for long guarantee control over events in the territories or the development and promotion of projects which will improve the quality of life there. Still, we have more than initial signs which indicate that if and when the Palestinian entity is set up, Hamas people will try to work their way into the system, as individuals if not as an organization, and the PLO leadership will agree.

[Peri] You are talking about the PLO leadership, but 'Arafat is a sole ruler, after all. He complains about opposition, but in the end he does as he pleases.

[Sagi] In theory, and perhaps also in practice, 'Arafat is a sole decision maker, perhaps also because he is capable of doing so.

[Peri] Do the Palestinians in the territories adapt themselves to the idea that they will have to live alongside the settlers?

[Sagi] The Palestinian aspiration is for the settlers to disappear naturally, but I believe that both sides, Israelis and Palestinians alike, understand it is better to put disagreements off for a later date, not because the problem will become smaller but with the hope that life will take its course and political maturity will enable the sides to solve this problem.

Theoretically, the Palestinians would prefer that the settlements be dismantled and moved to another site, within the Green Line boundaries. I have no doubt that this is a very serious matter which will feature very prominently during deliberations at the next stages.

As with the settlers, there is another, problematic and loaded issue: Jerusalem. Both sides agreed to postpone discussion of this issue to later stages.

[Peri] To what extent is talk in Israel about the evacuation of settlers from Hebron construed by the Palestinian side as a precedent for the continuation of the negotiations?

[Sagi] I would not like to comment on talk in Israel, but it is clear that the more diversified the Israeli positions are, the better the Palestinians' bargaining power becomes.

[Peri] You have been following 'Arafat since the beginning of the negotiations. Has he indeed changed?

[Sagi] I think you can say 'Arafat fully recognizes and controls his political actions. I am not going to comment on mental states attributed to 'Arafat that I have not observed.

[Peri] We have heard about tantrums, shouting, and feet-stomping. Are these tactics?

[Sagi] As human beings, we all get angry, and as political or military leaders, we all use different styles to attain goals or make things happen. 'Arafat requires no marks from me, but I would not say he has lost his way or control of himself.

[Peri] May we have your assessment on an issue which troubles us all: Will there be Palestinian retribution for the Hebron massacre?

[Sagi] Regardless of the various indications, the potential and desire for revenge requires no intelligence verification after such an incident.

One cannot lie back and think that since some time has passed the fury will blow over and the incident will be forgotten. Paradoxically, I believe that the more time passes without any dramatic act of revenge, the more we can expect a serious act of revenge.

[Peri] You have not calmed me.

[Sagi] It is not my duty to calm. My duty is to try and objectively describe what I know and estimate the results. Subjectively, I believe the more time passes, the closer we are to such an incident.

[Peri] It seems that you are not only preoccupied with the Syrian issue but it also interests you. Do you see any change with al-Asad's conception of the nature of peace?

[Sagi] I have not changed my position about the Syrians' concept and their drive toward a political arrangement, nor about what al-Asad will employ to obtain his goals. Still, noting changes in Syria does not mean that al-Asad, in whom I have taken interest lately, has become friendly to the Zionist idea or more amiable to the State of Israel.

I believe that al-Asad understood that Israel is stronger than Syria militarily, and he finds it difficult to reach strategic parity by himself in the face of what he defines as the Israeli threat. He surely feels isolated with his political concept within the Arab world. Despite his cooperation and close ties with Iran, he is very much aware of the danger of the fundamentalist Islamic wave. He understands he is totally isolated, and not only because the Soviet Union vanished but also because there is no super power other than the United States which is prepared to invest in our region.

[Peri] Al-Asad wants the entire Golan Heights from Israel. What exactly does he offer us in return?

[Sagi] I think that now more than ever, Syria understands that in return for sovereignty over the entire Golan Heights it will be required—and I believe it will also agree—to offer peace with its attendant components, including diplomatic relations. Still, I do not think that al-Asad defined publicly or to himself all components of normalization.

[Peri] Why?

[Sagi] At least for the tactical reason of conducting negotiations. In my opinion, he will refrain from unveiling the components of peace as long as he can help it.

[Peri] From al-Asad's viewpoint, is there any room to talk about full peace without a full withdrawal? Is there room to bargain on the extent of the withdrawal on the Golan?

[Sagi] I have not detected any readiness for compromise on al-Asad's part. From his viewpoint, he needs to believe he will receive the entire Golan Heights. Yet al-Asad also understands the other side of the coin, namely, that normalization with Israel is required.

There is a very deep psychological gap between the parties, a credibility gap. Each side demands of the other, as a precondition, that thing which he psychologically finds difficult to grant. As long as the gap is not bridged, it is very hard to progress, especially since the Israeli-Syrian negotiations are indeed the key to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

[Peri] In the meantime, Syria continues to purchase weapons, to build up militarily, and to acquire missiles.

[Sagi] Its military buildup is very impressive. The Syrians naturally claim that Israel is doing the same. It is clear the reference is not to two countries that are weakening militarily. It should be noted that as far as al-Asad is concerned, Israel has yet to clearly say "full withdrawal from the Golan Heights."

[Peri] From Israel's viewpoint, al-Asad is perceived as a cunning, stubborn political fox that is prepared to patiently lie in ambush for its prey. Can you read him?

[Sagi] I hope so. This is how I earn my living at least. Unfortunately, I have not met him yet. I read almost everything written about him that is available to me. I also take an interest in him in terms of intelligence, which has many aspects to it. It would be pretentious of me to say that I know him as I would a family member, but I think I know him well enough to form an opinion.

Al-Asad is a very experienced person who knows the Middle East inside out. If I could wish for anything, I would prefer that he knew much more about the Israeli reality.

[Peri] He is said to be a man of honor who honors his commitments.

[Sagi] He is a man of reason, he is cautious and suspicious, and he has his reasons for this. To a very large degree it is possible to say that he is reliable as long as his interests are served. Proof of this is the disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria on the Golan, in effect since 1974. The stability of this agreement is almost unparalleled on any other border we share with the Arabs.

Suffice it to say that if and when he signs an agreement, he will keep his word, but I do not want to engage in a millenial vision here as this would not be a realistic depiction of the situation. There are still deep conflicts between Syria and Israel, and Syria is a very strong military country, a country which builds itself up militarily and which views Israel as its number one enemy.

[Peri] I would guess that as the sole leader at the top, al-Asad relies heavily on reports he receives from his intelligence services.

[Sagi] I can only hope that this enhances his understanding of Israel and perhaps also of world-wide political reality. To the best of my knowledge, he is under exposed to visits and foreign elements.

[Peri] Are we still defined in Damascus as "the Zionist enemy?"

[Sagi] We are now the "Israeli enemy." I have no doubt that al-Asad too, not just others, needs to overcome a deep psychological barrier.

[Peri] Since the regime in Syria is dictatorial in nature, does he at all need to prepare public opinion for peace with Israel? Will he have opposition?

[Sagi] I think he will. This is not, indeed, public opinion in the open, democratic style with which we are familiar, but to change the views of a nation which has been educated and accustomed to a very certain outlook requires time and preparation. Al-Asad mentioned this point in public interviews. He expressed his opinion that it is not only Israel which must prepare public opinion.

There is no opposition in Syria preventing al-Asad from pursuing the road he has chosen embarked, but I surely understand what he means when he mentions the need to prepare the masses.

[Peri] Did the death of his eldest son, Basil, have an influence on al-Asad's political considerations?

[Sagi] I do not know a well-balanced person who would not be affected by the death of his son, but this carries no political influence in my opinion. After all, we are talking about a man with a strong personality.

[Peri] But he is not young anymore. Al-Asad is 64 and his health is not so good. What will happen when he dies?

[Sagi] I do not know. Naturally, the question is when. I can detect enough stability among today's ruling group—I am referring to four to five people—to continue in al-Asad's direction, for a short period of time at least.

[Peri] The Egyptians, the go-between between ourselves and Damascus, persist in their claim that an Israeli-Syrian peace accord will be signed within a year. Do you share this assessment?

[Sagi] I prefer to be cautious, unless the Egyptians possess information they do not share. I cannot identify anything that would elicit such an unequivocal assumption. This may be a combination of wishful thinking and an assessment, although it is not totally unreasonable.

I would be wary of setting such a binding timetable, but I agree that the chance of achieving a political settlement is better than before. Circumstances, as well as each sides' positions, might have reached a level of maturity necessary for such a settlement to become a reality.

[Peri] How big a danger is posed to Mubarak's life, in your opinion?

[Sagi] Islamic resistance in Egypt is not new, and to the best of my knowledge, President Mubarak and the security forces in Egypt are stable enough to overcome this resistance, not without problems, but Egypt still seems able to manage as far as security and the stability of the regime are concerned.

At the same time, it is impossible to dismiss this danger completely. The Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamic terror organizations in Egypt believe there is an alternative and that the regime had better be replaced. There is increasing evidence that the numbers are increasing, at least, the number of incidents involving these organizations in Egypt.

[Peri] Are you troubled over what will take place if something bad happens to Mubarak?

[Sagi] This question, like others, concerns me and requires due attention. Egypt is the leader of the Arab world which marked the road to peace in this world. I think that the Egyptian-Israeli model is a good point of reference to all those who participate in peace negotiations. This is something which the Arab world experienced and, in my opinion, found to be better than anything else.

In my opinion, President Mubarak plays a very positive role in his readiness to show the benefits Egypt enjoys from its peace treaty with Israel and in his efforts to try to bridge the gaps between the sides.

[Peri] What is King Husayn's state of health?

[Sagi] According to official medical bulletins, I think he is in good health. For the time being, and to the best of my judgment, there are no negative implications or side effects. The king functions in a normal, reasonable, and full manner, and I wish him long life.

[Peri] What is the condition of Saddam Husayn?

[Sagi] Three years after the Gulf War, Iraq's internal problems are worsening, but not enough to threaten Saddam Husayn's control. This is demonstrated by isolation of the Kurdish enclave and the struggle with the Shiite population in the south.

Saddam is in control of his army and of security. His regime, although exposed to relatively—but not sufficiently—difficult economic and domestic problems, is stable for the time being. On quite a few occasions he has been successful in circumventing the economic embargo on Iraq by cooperating with foreign elements on both official and less official levels.

[Peri] What is your opinion of the reports and intimations that Saddam Husayn is interested in joining the peace process?

[Sagi] These are merely gimmicks and speculation. They are not worthy of any serious consideration.

[Peri] What about the other alternative? Should we expect more nasty surprises from him.

[Sagi] Iraq's military capabilities have not improved since the Gulf War. Their order of battle is small. They have maintenance problems and the army has to both protect the regime in Baghdad, deploy around the borders, and confront the Kurds. In addition, they have tense relations with Iran and are deeply involved in a struggle against the Shiites in the south. The Iraqi Army is still large and capable of protecting the regime but the danger of Iraq launching a military campaign against Israel without the backing of a united Arab coalition or some kind of strategic military upheaval in the region is reduced.

Obviously, I would prefer not to comment on Saddam Husayn's ambitions, which he may have not renounced. It would be irresponsible of me to say that there were definitely no signs or remnant of Iraq's strategic surface-to-surface missile or chemical warfare capabilities, or even of his continued attempts to develop his nuclear project. If the international supervision efforts are sufficiently effective, they may perhaps guarantee that Iraq will not regain its previous strength. I am not optimistic, however, concerning the effectiveness of the inspection teams.

[Peri] Can Israel monitor what is happening in Iraq today?

[Sagi] We do our best. But this becomes more difficult as distances grow. I would say that our ability to know what is happening and to monitor developments in Iraq has improved compared to the past. But we will never be able to confidently state that we know everything. I can note with satisfaction that in light of the intelligence need to cover every location whenever possible, the level of cooperation between Israel and other countries has increased.

[Peri] Are you referring to our intelligence cooperation with the United States?

[Sagi] Yes, but not only that.

[Peri] Despite all the warnings, assessments, and information, two IDF soldiers were killed in Lebanon this week.

[Sagi] Terrorism in Lebanon is not a new phenomenon. It is merely the scope of terrorist activity that changes.

[Peri] Does what happened last week constitute a violation of the understandings reached during "Operation Accountability."

[Sagi] I do not think so. It is most infuriating and painful but the way I see things there was no violation of these understandings, except for the firing of the katyusha rockets. Hizballah claims, although I disagree, that operations against the IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] in the security zone does not violate the understandings we reached. If we retaliate against such activity, the situation will deteriorate.

[Peri] Who should restrain them?

[Sagi] The question is not who should but rather who is capable of restraining them. Nobody made such a commitment. It is no secret that Syria has the capability to control Hizballah or at least restrict its actions. They know how to do this and try to stop things from getting out of control.

[Peri] Now that we are conducting peace talks, do you detect mental blocks or inhibitions among your staff in running a different kind of intelligence service. Is there such a thing as peacetime intelligence?

[Sagi] I am not familiar with such an expression. My responsibility is to provide assessments for both the military and political echelons. I would even say that we are responsible for providing economic and technological information in all fields that present a threat to Israel. Only the integration of all these elements enables me to fulfill this responsibility and provide intelligence assessments at the national level.

Times have changed and sometimes the emphasis is placed on different things. The way we collect, analyze and process intelligence has also changed. It is the actual assessment report itself that highlights these different aspects.

It is important to stress that the IDF Intelligence Branch's top priority is still to give early warning about military threats to the State of Israel. This despite, and perhaps even because of, the political process.

The political process undoubtedly forces us to carry out a great deal of study and research. It necessitates our deep involvement. I would like to praise my people, who, despite the emphasis on early warning about military threats, correctly assessed, some three years ago, that a political shift of strategic significance for Israel was taking place.

[Peri] Are you primed to identify signs of peace? Tomorrow will mark the 15th anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt, and I remember President 'Ezer Weizman remarking at the time that our intelligence dossiers had not been in step with developments.

[Sagi] I think it is our duty, and not only our privilege, to predict such developments. I think we have been successful enough to give Israel time to adequately prepare itself.

[Peri] What has really changed in the concepts and modus operandi of the Intelligence Branch since the start of the peace negotiations?

[Sagi] The Intelligence Corps is a large body, and not everyone necessarily does the same job. The integration process takes place at the higher levels. Some people handle the military side of things while others deal with the political process. The higher one goes up in the Intelligence hierarchy, the more integration is needed.

As for the threats, our intelligence package has greatly expanded. Today, collecting intelligence on threats in Iran, Iraq, or Libya is no longer a fantastic notion. This has a profound impact: we have to invest heavily in people, equipment, input, and in formulating concepts.

The political aspect requires additional information-collection investments in people and places. Without singing my own praises, I think we have good intelligence. I do not believe that Israel suffers from an intelligence block that prevents the political echelon from making decisions.

[Peri] Did you think that the political process would be as long, winding, complex, and complicated?

[Sagi] I said that the process would be complicated and strewn with crises. Difficult, with many stalemates. But the general trend I identified—and I still adhere to my position—will be progress toward a political settlement. Whether or not such a settlement will really be achieved depends on both parties.

[Peri] What will the Middle East look like in another two years? Will there be peace and open borders or hunger and Islamic terrorism?

[Sagi] The fundamental problems will continue. Economic problems will grow worse. There are very serious demographic problems and a lack of resources. The Islamic wave has not reached its crest yet nor has terrorist extremism.

On the other hand, additional progress will be made in the political process which will moderate things to a certain degree. We may reach agreement with the Arab world on issues of joint interest.

The water problem and the military threat will remain. However, I believe that the Arab countries will not expand their budgets for military buildup purposes. Even Syria, which has systematically built up its army, has not increased its military budget.

[Peri] What about war?

[Sagi] War is still a threat in the Middle East but that does not mean that the prospects for war have increased. On the contrary, I think that the chances for a war in the foreseeable future have been greatly reduced. The probability of war does not necessarily grow if and when the political process runs into a problem.

Nevertheless, if the political process runs aground, developments in Syria will warrant special attention and a higher level of interest from us.

[Peri] Who in your opinion is the most intriguing Arab leader?

[Sagi] All of them are intriguing. However, I would say that personally I am most interested in al-Asad. He is the Arab leader that can have the most impact on the realization of my assessments.

[Peri] During your tenure as head of the Intelligence Branch, which Arab leader has made the most progress?

[Sagi] 'Arafat. It is interesting to note that he thinks the same thing about us. He is not alone in this assumption. There are other Arab leaders who think that Israel was the one to come a long way.

[Peri] Which Arab country would you like to visit?

[Sagi] I would like to go everywhere. I have been to Egypt because that is allowed.

[Peri] The hottest topic of discussion in both Israel and the Arab world is the commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre. Are you following the hearings?

[Sagi] Like every other Israeli citizen.

[Peri] And as a major general in the IDF, how do you feel about it?

[Sagi] I do not wish to comment on issues outside of my purview.

[Peri] Where do you see yourself in another year or two?

[Sagi] I hope that I will still be functioning and in good health.

Article Views Goldstein's Mentors

TA2603103994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 18 Mar 94 pp 6, 7, 26

[Article by Aviva Shabi and Tzvi Singer: "The Mentors"]

[Text] In the meeting of the National Religious Party [NRP] Knesset faction, held last week in the shadow of the detentions of Kakh and Kahana Hay activists, Hanan Porat spoke of the need to establish a spiritual leadership, a sort of council of Torah scholars for the Zionist-religious movement.

Porat, who is running for party leadership, has been preaching setting up such a leadership for quite a while. He wants it to be made of the first-rank of rabbis, such as Avraham Shapira, Sha'ul Yisra'eli, and Moshe Tzvi Neriya. The context in which the remarks were made this time was somewhat different. According to Porat, such a forum could make decisions that would compel the rabbis to support, openly or tacitly, acts such as the Hebron massacre.

Two of the names mentioned in this context were Rabbi Yisra'el Ari'el, of the Temple Institute [makhon hamiqdash] in Jerusalem, formerly the rabbi of Yamit; and Rabbi Dov Li'or, the Qiryat Arba' rabbi and the head of the high school-yeshiva in town.

It was no accident that the two, Ari'el and Li'or, led the funeral of the murderer-doctor, and even eulogized him. Ari'el compared Goldstein to Judas Maccabaeus and Samson, who killed 30 men with the jawbone of an ass, and called him a martyr.

In his eulogy at the Qiryat Arba' yeshiva, addressing hundreds including the yeshiva students, Rabbi Li'or described the deceased as a man full of love for his fellow men "who could no longer take the humiliation and the disgrace. Everything he did was in honor of Israel and for the glory of God."

Li'or should know a little about Goldstein's love of men. For months, the Qiryat Arba' doctor devotedly treated the rabbi's first wife who was dying of cancer. On the night she died, he sat with Rabbi Li'or till dawn.

The embarrassment Rabbi Ari'el's remarks caused in the Zionist-religious camp, can be seen in the following story: Last Wednesday, the heads of the Bney 'Aqiva [NRP's] youth movement held a sympathy tour of Qiryat Arba' and Hebron. During a meeting with members of the movement, some of them lashed out at the movement leaders for their decision to demonstrate in Jerusalem in protest of the Hebron massacre. Yaron Te'ena, head of the instruction department, told his listeners that he held a conversation with Rabbi Yisra'el Ari'el after he promoted Dr. Goldstein to martyr.

"I could not believe that the rabbi really made such remarks," Te'ena said, "but I realized that he insists and that he bases his statements on Samson's heritage. I asked Rabbi Ari'el: Has there been no exile, state, and sovereignty since Samson? Has nothing changed? And he said: You still have a lot to learn."

Rabbis such as Li'or and Ari'el disturb the NRP heads for good reason. First, they make all of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza rabbis look like extremists. Second, they inspire followers such as Goldstein. Those spiritual mentors do not openly identify with Kahana's movement, but their world view is pretty close. Things they do not explicitly say, often remain open for personal interpretations. Things are quite often said behind closed doors—during yeshiva classes on Jewish philosophy and ethics—under the assumption that they will not reach the ears of the secular public. When they leak, they cause major storms.

Four years ago, Rabbi Neriya, head of the Bney 'Aqiva yeshivas, was at the center of such storm when a letter he wrote was read out in a conference of rabbis in Jerusalem. The conference was held to protest the conviction of Rabbi Levinger of causing the death of a Hebron shoe trader. Neriya, who won an Israel Award for education and is admired by tens of thousands, wrote for the occasion about the type of distress in which Levinger found himself. He said that "this is not a time to think; it is time to shoot left and right, and do everything required to chase away murderers who rise to break your skull, stab you through the heart, or break your bones...."

Neriya explained that he was speaking of acts of self-defense when under a death threat. He did not even think of condemning the rabbi who, according to the judges' ruling, shot indiscriminately and endangered the lives of innocent people.

This argument surprised no one, considering the enormous importance of rabbinical decrees for the religious public. Upon his detention in 1984, Menahem Livni, head of the Jewish underground, wrote about the support of "Qiryat Arba' rabbis" for "acts of mass terrorism" staged to deter the Arab population.

The names mentioned in that document were Rabbi Li'or, Rabbi Waldman, Rabbi Levinger, and Rabbi Yo'ezer Ari'el. Equipped with the rabbis' support, the members of the Jewish underground went to assassinate Arab mayors. This support, however, did not help them when they were arrested. The rabbis were questioned by the police, but came out unharmed by the whole affair.

Rabbi Li'or is no eccentric, nor does he belong to the maniacal fringes; he is the flesh and bone of the religious-Zionism. He is a graduate of the Merkaz Harav Yeshiva in Jerusalem, and an assiduous follower of late Rabbi Tzvi Hakohen Kook. Therefore, any attempt to dismiss him is very difficult. Li'or is considered a superb halakic ruler and diligent scholar; he was Chief Rabbi Shapira's candidate for the post of judge at the Rabbinical High Court in Jerusalem. The state attorney ruled out his candidacy due to his racist remarks.

His opinions were expressed, among other places, in a letter Li'or sent several years ago to a military physician who asked for his opinion about practicing giving intravenous injections on detained Arab terrorists in the framework of a military drill. "If it is possible to conduct experiments on worthless persons, who deserve to die in a country ruled by law, and if this is being suggested by a soldier, and if it could be done, it should," the rabbi wrote in his reply. Another remark attributed to Li'or was made in a conference of rabbis: "Several Arabs should be sent to heaven for each Jewish fatality." Several people who attended talks and classes with Li'or have claimed that these remarks are among the most moderate he has ever made regarding the Arabs.

Rabbi Ari'el is also a graduate of Merkaz Harav. He served as the Northern Command chaplain; as a paratrooper, he took part in the battle for Jerusalem and the taking of the Western Wall in the Six-Day War; and headed the high school-yeshiva of Yamit with his brother, Rabbi Ya'aqov Ari'el, today the chief rabbi of Ramat Gan. Another Ari'el brother is Yo'ezer who teaches in Li'or's yeshiva in Qiryat Arba'. The fourth brother, Yig'al, is the rabbi of the Golan settlement of Nov. Yig'al Ari'el was one of the rabbis who strictly condemned the massacre.

Yisra'el is considered the most extreme brother. He is remembered from the evacuation of Yamit as the one who called on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers to refuse orders. After the evacuation, he used his compensation money to buy a luxury apartment in the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem, and established the Temple Institute. In the 1981 elections he was No. 2 on Kahana's list of candidates for the Knesset. In 1983 he was arrested along with Kakh activist Barukh Marzel during a security forces operation to foil an attempt by extremists to take over the Temple Mount. Incidentally, Rabbi Li'or is an ardent supporter of redeeming the Temple Mount. He even urged putting up a fence around the al-Aqsa mosque, preventing alien access to it, and setting up a Jewish house of prayer next to it.

Another outstanding representative of the extremist craze is Rabbi Yitzhaq Ginsburg, the rabbi of the 'Od Yosef Hay Yeshiva. He is highly thought of by the settlers who used to be secular. He is of American origin, and belongs to Habad. His association with Gush Emunim and the Merkaz Harav school of thought was made possible through the students of the yeshiva he heads. Some say he was adopted by them to provide them with ideological legitimacy. His influence on the national religious public is insignificant.

Ginsburg's Kahanist views were first revealed when he defended one of his students who opened fire at Arab workers on the Geha road. After five of his students were arrested on suspicion of killing an Arab girl in the village of Kifl Harith, he declared that "Jewish blood and Arab blood are not equal." He remained firm even after a complaint was filed against him with the police for racist incitement, and after NRP Secretary General Sha'ul Yahalom demanded that he be ousted from his role as yeshiva head.

In an interview with HA'ARETZ's Ya'ir Sheleg, Ginsburg confirmed that he supports some of Kahana's ideas. He clarified his stands by saying that "there is a great difference in the punishment becoming a person who hurts a Jew and a person who hurts a gentile... the life of a Jew is worth much more than the lives of many gentiles." The reverberation this remark caused did not prevent the heads of Gush Emunim from holding a conference of sympathy and encouragement for the Nabulus yeshiva students.

It should be stressed that the three do not carry equal halakic weight. Rabbi Li'or is considered a most senior authority, while Ari'el and Ginsburg are said to have much less impact. "At the same time," Prof. Ehud Sprinzak of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem says, "if ever a new Jewish underground is set up in Israel, the people who found it will first ask those three to legitimize their acts." Sprinzak specializes in studying radical right-wing movements. Among others, he studied the Jewish underground.

"There has been no act by the Jewish underground which did not have a rabbinical backing," Sprinzak said. "Even the plans that were not carried out, such as blowing up the Temple Mount mosques, were canceled because the rabbis did not approve of them. Hence, there is a chance that the most radical elements of Gush Emunim will seek extremist rabbis' support if they ever decide to establish a new underground. The three rabbis mentioned here are certainly potential addresses should matters deteriorate, and I am afraid they will." The three rabbis, incidentally, refused to be interviewed for this article.

After the underground was uncovered in the summer of 1984, Rabbi Ari'el set up a small group called Tzfiyya [observation]. Rabbi Li'or was also part of this ideological group. According to Prof. Sprinzak, "this was the only group of the entire national-religious camp which provided the Jewish underground with absolute halakic backing after it was uncovered."

In a lengthy article Rabbi Ari'el published in the TZFIYYA booklet, he determined, among other things, that the commandment "you shall not kill" does not apply to Arabs; according to his interpretation, the ban only applies to Jews. Rabbi Ari'el found halakic support for his claim that when Jews murder Jews they should be tried in courts on earth, but anyone who murders an Arab will only be tried in heaven.

In his article, Ari'el launched an unprecedented attack at the Gush Emunim rabbis for hurrying to condemn the members of the Jewish underground. He equated the "character assassination" done to the members of the underground with actual murder, and determined that "he who shames his friend—loses his share of heaven." He wrote: "That which is said here does not apply to those who, for our sins, departed with the Torah and, as part of their overall indiscretion, make mistakes on this issue as well. Why should we complain about them? It is very painful, however, to hear such disgraceful remarks made by rabbis! Our friends! Let us assume, God forbid, that we are talking of murderers. A murderer of the flesh who served his term, does not lose his share of the afterlife. And what of the murderer of the soul...?"

The teachings of Rabbi Kahana are, therefore, the obvious and hidden thread connecting the three rabbis. A thorough examination of the stands reveals a surprising similarity between their stands and the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] concepts on cardinal issues: Both share a vision of a religious state between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea; and xenophobia which refers to aliens or the secular ("infidels" as the fundamentalist Muslims call it; Hellenizers, as Kahana called it); they both demand that all aliens be removed from the entire holy land; both perceive the conflict as an East-West cultural clash; and they both reject the Western culture, the source of all evil that came upon the nation.

"We should know what the reality is," Rabbi Li'or wrote. "The Torah is very explicit: "But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as pricks in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell." He further wrote in favor of the notion of transfer: "Removing the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is a state task."

Rabbi Ari'el: "The Arabs who do not want to be transported will be given the status of non-Jewish residents. They will have to abide by the seven commandments of the sons of Noah....Those who want will be able to remain, but they will not be able to receive any administrative post or any other kind of post. They will be able to be shepherds and merchants...they will be second rate citizens."

Elsewhere: "Eretz Yisra'el was allotted only to the people of Israel, and is not meant for the settlement of foreigners, non-Jewish residents, or even to proselytes."

According to Ari'el the patriarchs' allotted territory is equivalent to the area promised to Abraham, stretching from the Mediterranean to Iraq, including parts of Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. During the Lebanon War, Ari'el declared that "Lebanon is part of our flesh, just as Tel Aviv and Haifa." Rabbi Li'or also said during the Lebanon War that "the territory of the tribes of Asher, Naphtali, and Zebulun has been liberated...therefore it is inconceivable to even think of returning this area to the gentiles."

In a conference of NRP rabbis, Li'or stated that the Arabs are lagging years behind us, and "we are fools for improving the living conditions of those who want to destroy us." Another pearl of wisdom emitted by him in TZFIYYA: We cannot make real peace with the Ishmaelites. One of the Arabs' characteristics is that they hate peace."

It is no coincidence that Li'or agreed with the definition of the intifadah as a war: in an interview to IDF Radio he said that "in a state of war the prohibition against hurting innocent people does not apply and collective punishment is permissible." Incidentally, Li'or does not find only the Arabs hard to live with. According to him, correspondents should also be added to the list of those are unfit for halakic testimony, whereas leftists he defines as traitors.

In a lesson to his students, Rabbi Ari'el once ruled that a Jewish doctor must never aid a Christian or Muslim casualty unless he is paid for doing so. Baruq Goldstein probably fulfilled this ruling when he refused to treat Hizballah casualties in Lebanon.

Prof Sprinzak emphasizes that Ari'el, who suffered greatly as a result of his activity in Yamit and in Kakh, is no longer active in the militant groups. He "came out of the closet" while delivering his obituary to Goldstein. However, one of the settlements' rabbis, who asked to remain unnamed, related the following story:

"Several years ago—after one of the mass terror attacks—a student rose up during one of my lessons and said he wanted to retaliate. He quoted Rabbi Ari'el as an authority for this sort of action. Since I could not dissuade him, I suggested that we both call Ari'el and ask for his opinion. Ari'el's answer: I do not recommend to do so, but I also cannot say that I oppose it."

Other rabbis in the territories, such as Rabbi Eli'ezer Melamed, secretary of the committee of settlements' rabbis, are trying to downplay the influence of the extremists. Melamed emphasizes that Rabbi Ari'el has no official capacity and that his influence is minimal. He says that "people who tend to be extremist can seek support in him. They would remain extremist, however, whether Rabbi Ari'el existed or not. I doubt whether even one percent of the settlers are as extremist as him."

What about Rabbi Li'or?

Rabbi Elyaqim Levanon of Elon More says that "most of the time his opinions are no different than those of other settlements' rabbis. He has a distinct personal style, but his principles are similar to ours."

One settlement rabbi adds that "great as his halakic authority is, Li'or is politically naive. He might say that 'the Arabs are evil and we must fight and harm them.' When one asks him, however, whether such acts should be initiated, he will answer: 'to initiate such acts? how can anybody initiate such acts of his own volition?'"

The problem is that talking is precisely Jewish rabbis' stock-in-trade, whether they proffer counsel to individuals or give lectures to large audiences. The various Goldsteins require no more than a vague statement for carrying out their deeds.

Al-'Anani Holds News Conference on UN Ship Searches

JN2903150294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a session today under Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, during which it discussed several issues, including the measures taken in the port of al-'Aqabah and the Straits of Tiran against al-'Aqabah-bound vessels. The council also discussed the situation in the occupied territories in the wake of the arbitrary Israeli measures there.

Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for Cabinet Affairs and Information Minister, held a news conference on the issues that the cabinet discussed today.

[Begin al-'Anani recording] The Council of Ministers today reviewed the measures that are being taken in the port of al-'Aqabah and the Straits of Tiran to search vessels on their way to Jordan, and the great losses the Jordanian economy incurs due to these measures. These losses have been estimated at more than $1.3 billion from 1990 until now. These sums have been paid by the Jordanian consumer and importer as a result of the unreasonable measures that are used to search the vessels or to send them back. This has made the prices of cargo spiral to a point that has greatly affected the Jordanian economy.

The government believes that the current search operations are a means of putting pressure on Jordan to have it adopt political stands during the current peace process that it cannot condone. This method will come to no avail with Jordan. From this premise, the government takes great pride in and completely supports his majesty's statements yesterday, as well as the press statement issued after his Majesty King Husayn met with the ambassadors of the five UN Security Council permanent members.

We have taken note of the reactions, especially by the United States, and believe these reactions contain positive points that could contribute to ending the present problem of the methods used in inspecting al-'Aqabah-bound vessels.

We emphasize that the government is still waiting for the United States and the other concerned parties to make a decision expeditiously and without delay in this respect to end this problem as soon as possible and to allow the Jordanian economy to return to its normal activities and vigor and tackle the problems from which it suffers, particularly unemployment and poverty.

The prohibitive price Jordan has paid could, of course, be compensated and Jordan should call for such compensation.

The second point I wish to speak about today, and which is connected to this, is that the Jordanian Government, or the Council of Ministers reviewed today the violence in the occupied territories, particularly the massacre that took place in Jabaliyah camp in Gaza yesterday, martyring eight Palestinians. We believe that the continuation of violence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip proves that Israel until now still prefers to resort to military methods. This massacre has taken place two days before Land Day. As you know, Land Day falls tomorrow. This day reminds us all of the arbitrary measures the Israeli authorities carry out in a manner that conflicts with the atmosphere of peace that should prevail for the attainment of a just and comprehensive solution in the region. While it denounces the killings, woundings, and persecution operations against our people in the occupied Arab territories, the Jordanian Government would like too to celebrate Land Day tomorrow to emphasize that peace cannot be attained unless all the occupied Arab territories, including of course occupied Arab Jerusalem, are regained and the Palestinian people are given their full rights on their land and national soil.

Thus, we also believe that the current pressure on Jordan, along with the cases of violence fabricated by the Israeli authorities in the Arab territories and the killing of innocent people, are both a form of pressure and an expression of will that causes us to cast doubt on Israel's intentions toward the peace process. Jordan fully insists that a just and honorable peace should ultimately prevail.

We should also talk about some domestic issues. Today, the Council of Ministers reviewed the many reports published in the newspapers and the statements by some trade unions accusing the Jordanian Government of seeking to weaken or undermine them, and similar rumors. The Council of Ministers reviewed this issue.

The Jordanian Government wants to emphasize that it completely respects the trade unions; it respects their organizations, institutions, and individuals. The government also appreciates the great role these trade unions are playing in the service of the Jordanian community. We also take pride in the achievements of engineers, doctors, pharmacists, agricultural engineers, geologists, dentists, journalists, and other trade union members who serve the Jordanian community. This, however, does not mean that differences can never arise between a trade union and various ministries or government bodies. This state, which enforces the law and has self-respect, acts with methods approved by the Jordanian law and constitution.

In light of the fact that some trade unions have very large memberships and important members, we expect these trade unions to play their role in building the community together with the government. Differences of views or interpretations does not mean that democracy, God forbid, is endangered. On the contrary, we want to consolidate the trade union's role and wish to grant a very profile value to this role in building the community, especially since we are talking about a young community that needs all its capabilities to build itself and face future challenges.

Thus, the government does not have differences with the trade unions, and does not want to belittle the trade union's importance, God forbid. Moreover, it does not want to subject these trade unions to anything. However, in the event of differences with the trade unions, we will resort to the lawful methods approved by the constitution and law. This can occur at any time. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further on News Conference

JN2903184194 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Amman, 29 Mar (PETRA)—[passage omitted] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and information minister, has said the Council of Ministers reviewed the measures that are being taken in the port of al-'Aqabah to search vessels on their way to Jordan. [passage omitted]

He added that the council heard a report from the minister of state for foreign affairs on his participation in the Arab League foreign ministers meetings. He said Jordan is very eager that Arab meetings reflect the Arab desire and tendency to hold a unified position.

He said Jordan believes that there are problems facing the process of clearing Arab atmosphere and returning Arab relations to their previous situation, saying Jordan has an open heart to all Arab brothers who want to have relations with Jordan on the basis of fraternity and sincerity.

Dr. al-'Anani said the Arab League Council delayed discussing the subject of the Arab League Charter, on which there were several ideas presented for discussion. He said His Majesty King Husayn was the first to demand the reconsideration of the charter so that it can cope with new circumstances.

As for bilateral relations with Egypt, Dr. al-'Anani said the minister of state for foreign affairs met at the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers meetings with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, and an agreement was reached to hold meetings of the Jordanian-Egyptian higher joint committee in the second half of April. The meetings had previously been delayed. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on the U.S. proposal that a barge carry out inspection at the port of al-'Aqabah, Dr. al-'Anani said the presence of a barge in the port would conflict with Jordanian sovereignty and that Jordan could not accept this. He said that there has been no such proposal at all.

He said what was demanded was that a neutral international quarter assigned by the United Nations carry out inspection of vessels that unload their cargoes in the port of al-'Aqabah. He said that Jordan rejects the presence of any military forces from any party because Jordan maintains its sovereignty. Had Jordan been willing to relinquish this sovereignty, it would have allowed the ships that inspect al-'Aqabah-bound vessels to cross into Jordanian territorial waters to reach the port and carry out inspections. This was the original problem that delayed the vessels in the past, because the government totally rejects this.

He said we accept the presence of civilian technical observers from a specialized neutral quarter who give certificates that the inspected cargoes do not contain anything that violates the economic sanctions.

Al-'Anani on Peace Process, al-'Aqabah Link

JN3003080594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Mar 94 pp 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—American and Jordanian officials are scheduled to meet in Washington Thursday [31 March] to discuss Jordan's demand for a solution to the negative impact on its economy of the de facto blockade of al-'Aqabah imposed by the enforcers of the 44-month-old international sanctions against Iraq, Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference after a regular Council of Ministers meeting, Dr. al-'Anani called on the U.S. to seek a speedy solution to the problem so that Jordan could go back to the 28-month-old American-backed Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

The government has been informed by the Jordanian embassy in Washington that a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday among Jordanian officials and representatives of all concerned U.S. government departments and agencies to discuss the issue, Dr. al-'Anani said.

"The Jordanian government urges concerned authorities in the U.S. and also the United Nations to speed up the proposal to replace offshore inspections by onshore inspections by a third neutral party," said Dr. al-'Anani. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-'Anani said Jordan did not share the view that the Arab-Israeli peace process and the effects of the international sanctions imposed against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 were two separate issues.

"We believe that the issue of al-'Aqabah cannot be fully disassociated from the peace process," he said. "After all, the whole peace process was basically generated after the Gulf war. Therefore, to say that there is no link is not a view that is necessarily shared by Jordan."

Dr. al-'Anani said a recent escalation of the interceptions and inspection procedures adopted by the American-led warships patrolling the Red Sea could not but be seen as a form of indirect pressure on Jordan to accept an Israeli demand that the Kingdom sign a peace agreement and then negotiate the terms of the accord.

"Jordan is not going to succumb to pressures of this kind," the minister said. "We want the peace process to pursure a rational path. Jordan does not need to give any further evidence to its positive attitude and its important and key role in the peace process itself." [passage omitted]

Dr. al-'Anani, who estimated that Jordan lost up to $1.3 billion in extra freight costs alone as a result of higher charges levied by shipowners sending their vessels to and from al-'Aqabah since the sanctions against Iraq were imposed in August 1990, noted that inspectors have not been able to find a single violation of the sanctions after checking more than 1,700 vessels.

Despite such a record, he said, Jordan continued to suffer from the modalities of the inspections. The minister said the Kingdom reserved the right to demand compensation for the losses it incurred.

"The final effect of the method of inspections on Jordan-bound ships is not justified by the method of application of sanctions against Iraq," Dr. al-'Anani said. "Alternatives were offered and we think they should have been studied but that should not have taken so much to be finalised and approved.

"Therefore, when the number of ships that were intercepted escalated in the last month while there was a constructive proposal that has been discussed but not ratified, we had to draw a conclusion that Jordan is targeted economically and politically...," said Dr. al-'Anani. [passage omitted]

The information Minister welcomed a statement by U.S. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry that the Jordanian proposal was under study and said Jordan hoped that "this matter will be very very soon resolved."

"If that happens, then we think it would iron out a major problem which is not only affecting the Jordanian economy but also inflaming popular response to the whole situation," Dr. al-'Anani said.

The minister was referring to a call issued by Parliament last week for the goverment to refuse to return to peace talks with Israel until the siege of al-'Aqabah is lifted and the lifting is formally announced at the Security Council.

Dr. al-'Anani said the Jordanian call for an end to the "modus operandi" of inspecting Aqaba-bound vessels was not linked to the overall sanctions against Iraq although Jordan strongly felt that the situation of the Iraqi people was worsening due to lack of enough food and medicine.

Dr. al-'Anani also reiterated that Jordan would not accept the stationing of international forces in its territory since such a move... will be in violation of Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity." [punctuation as published]

Asked whether Jordan would attend an April 7 round of multilateral talks on the environment, which is part of the Middle East process, Dr. al-'Anani said: "We hope that the concerned parties will arrive at a speedy decision to solve the problem" of the siege of Aqaba.

Prime Minister Urges Ending al-'Aqabah 'Blockade'

JN2903195194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has stressed that Jordan has always backed just, comprehensive, and lasting peace and will continue to support it and that Jordan is working to establish stability in the region.

During his meeting with German Labor Minister Norbert Bluem at the Prime Ministry today, the prime minister said the negotiations should inevitably lead to a comprehensive and real peace. He added: We agreed to negotiate on the essence and not the form, and we agreed that the issue of security should be discussed with the withdrawal from the occupied territories, the issue of economy with that of the refugees and the displaced, and the issue of water with the plans on environment and energy, and we have announced that we are ready to discuss all these problems at the same time.

The prime minister pointed out that Jordan has endured the most from the Gulf war and that it has sustained a sizable loss. He said: I personally visited New York and explained to the officials there the pressure and harassment to which Jordan is being submitted through the blockade imposed on the port of al-'Aqabah and the momentous losses resulting from this harassment, as well as the other consequences sustained by the Jordanian economy, which has been unjustifiably punished.

Dr. al-Majali said: We hope that Germany will support Jordan's right to have the blockade lifted from the al-'Aqabah Port and help it overcome its problems by alleviating the tribulations of the citizens and the trade sectors as a result of the price hikes caused by the transportation costs and the blockade imposed on the port. [passage omitted]

Al-Majali on Searches of Ships to Al-'Aqabah

NC3003085694 London MBC Television in Arabic 1809 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali in Amman by Nicole Tannuri in London; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tannuri] A U.S. spokesman has stated that the United States is considering amending the procedures for searching ships bound for the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah to curb the economic impact on Jordan resulting from the sanctions imposed on Iraq. Dr. al-Majali, how do explain the Jordanian stand?

[Al-Majali] The Jordanian economy has been considerably affected. In such an atmosphere and with that massive impact on conditions in Jordan. how can we go to peace negotiations? A negotiator must be relaxed; he must feel at ease about negotiating for peace because it involves benefits for all.

[Tannuri] The United States has said that there are proposals and ongoing negotiations about searching ships. What are these proposals; and is it possible for the government to respond positively to them?

[Al-Majali] First of all, I would like to affirm that we are hiding nothing. We are a committed state that has good credibility. When we say that we import nothing that violates the UN resolutions, we really mean that. But they have to conduct searches. Hence, we proposed several methods to handle this. One of these is to entrust the task to an international nonprofit firm, like Lloyd's Register. This firm's representatives in al-'Aqabah can monitor things and report directly to the United Nations.

More than three months have passed. We understood that the parties concerned had approved this proposal. Nothing has happened yet. On the contrary, the number of ships searched or intercepted this year is almost equal to all the ships searched in the past years.

[Tannuri] Are there guarantees in monitoring violations and ensuring Jordan's commitment not to violate the UN resolutions imposing the embargo on Iraq?

[Al-Majali] We are committed. We are a member of the United Nations. If we do not comply we will be violating the resolutions of an organization to which we belong.

[Tannuri] Thank you Mr. prime minister.

Minister on Reconciliation, Peace, Blockade, Incidents

NC3003084094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—Talal al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that the intense ministerial participation in the Arab League Council's meetings showed sincere intentions and sound hopes for Arab solidarity.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM today, the minister said Jordan is eager to support the Arab League and realize the idea of comprehensive pan-Arab security to allow an Arab reconciliation and solidarity able to overcome the differences. He added that Jordan is also eager to forsake the past to enable the Arab nation to face up to its challenges and dangers.

He said his country will not abandon the principles of the peace process in which it believes, primarily Security Council resolutions, the principle of land for peace, Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, primarily Jerusalem, and securing the Palestinians' legitimate rights, on top of which is their right to self-determination.

On the blockade of the port of al-'Aqabah, which Jordan tried to link with the resumption of negotiations, he said the blockade causes huge losses to the Jordanian economy, adding that it was enforced as a result of the Gulf war to which Jordan was not a party and for the results of which it was not responsible.

He added that Jordan presented legal documents to the United Nations and every country concerned and explained the need for and importance of lifting this blockade as a security measure to guarantee the region's stability and advance the peace process.

Commenting on recent terrorist incidents in Jordan, Talal al- Hasan said they were isolated. They are being investigated and the law will take its course. He noted that Jordan has always enjoyed stability and security.

King's Brave Stand on al-'Aqabah 'Siege' Seen

JN3003095194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Mar 94 pp 1, 29

[Editorial: "We Reject Encroachment on Our Sovereignty"]

[Text] The press statement issued after His Majesty King Husayn's met with the ambassadors of the permanent Security Council states was a source of deep pride for the people of Jordan. They see King Husayn's brave stand as a reflection of their deep feelings of being deceived throughout the past.

This is especially so since the siege imposed by the U.S. Navy on the Port of al-'Aqabah encroaches on what is most valuable for Jordan—its dignity and its national reputation. The siege directly encroaches on Jordan's sovereignty, in addition to the economic losses it causes and the difficulties it produces, which add to the difficulties Jordan faces in the wake of the Gulf war.

In light of this, Jordan justly and legitimately demands the lifting of the unfair and unjustified siege of the only port linking it to the outside world. It demands that naval forces stationed in international waters stop dealing with Jordan as an outlaw country that is secretly violating international resolutions.

Hence, any measure intended to be a quick solution to the siege of the Port of al-'Aqabah will be rejected if it is conditional on the presence of U.S. barges in the Jordanian port. This is especially so because such a solution would be a blatant violation of the sovereignty of an independent country and a UN member that has not committed any violation that stipulates such punishment.

In return, Jordan—which accepted the UN Security Council resolutions without being convinced about them and which avoided as much as possible appearing as a violator of international legitimacy resolutions that deal with the ongoing siege—accepts the presence of international employees to inspect the goods arriving at the Port of al-'Aqabah. In other words, it accepts the presence of a neutral international party delegated by the United Nations to inspect incoming ships.

We believe the stand bravely expressed by His Majesty King Husayn reflects the feelings of every citizen in this patient and mobilized country. We realize at the same time that the siege of the Port of al-'Aqabah is an issue that goes beyond implementing the UN embargo on Iraq. It reaches the level of exercising political pressure and compelling Jordan to accept what it did not accept in the ongoing peace process. This prompts us to stand together in support of King Husayn's stand to reject every encroachment on our sovereignty and national dignity.

Prime Minister, PLO Official Discuss Various Issues

JN3003104894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Mar p 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official on Tuesday [29 March] briefed Jordanian officials on the status of the PLO's negotiations with Israel on security arrangements for Palestinians in the occupied territories following the Feb. 25 massacre in Hebron and said afterwards there were no differences between Jordan and the organisation.

Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO's representative to Tunisia, briefed Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali on PLO-Israeli contacts and related developments in the Middle East peace process following the adoption of U.N. Security Council Resolution 904.

While the resolution cleared the way for a possible resumption of Middle East peace talks by condemning the Hebron massacre and calling for international protection for the Palestinian people living under occupation, it also signalled a possible shift in the U.S. stand towards Jerusalem.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has denied thatthere was any such shift, and senior Washington officials say that the U.S. refusal to endorse the Holy City's status as occupied territory stemmed from a desire not to prejudge the outcome of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the future of the occupied lands.

Jordan has criticised the PLO over the resolution saying the document was mishandled since it opened the door for the U.S. to state what could be a precedent-setting position by abstaining on the reference to Jerusalem as occupied territory.

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani, one of the officials who met on Tuesday with Mr. Bal'awi, who was sent there by Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, agreed with Mr. Bal'awi that there was no "fundamental rift" with the PLO.

"In essence the difference is not a political one because what is demanded first and foremost is guaranteeing the Arab rights in Jerusalem," Dr. al-'Anani said.

Dr. al-'Anani told reporters that Mr. Bal'awi had brought a "positive approach" in the sense that he reaffirmed that "Jordanian- Palestinian relations are strong and should remain strong and should not be negatively affected by a difference here or a difference there."

Dr. al-'Anani said Jordan's foremost concern in the context of Jerusalem was to defend the Arab rights to the Holy City. "Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation should not differ over Jerusalem because we have a right in Jerusalem and we should restore them," Dr. al-'Anani said.

"Differences in opinion sometimes lead to exaggerated political implications if those differences are overread," Dr. al-'Anani said, emphasising the need for coordinating Jordanian and Palestinian stands towards Jerusalem, "an issue that concerns the Arabs, Jordanians, Palestinians, Muslims and Christians..."

It was clear from Mr. Bal'awi's comments to reporters after the meeting that the PLO was anxious to avert any dispute with Jordan. Jordanian-PLO differences were "something of the past" he said, adding "Jordanians and Palestinians share the same objectives and goals and we are working together to achieve them."

Mr. Bal'awi avoided direct questions on a statement issued by the PLO early this week criticising Jordan and defending the organisation's handling of Resolution 904 at the Security Council.

Jordan said that it was a midtake to have insisted on including a reference to Jerusalem in Resolution 904 after it became clear that Washington would abstain from voting on any reference to the Holy City as occupied territories. Instead, Jordan said, the wording of the resolution could have been amended to include a general reference to the territories Israel occupied since 1967 without mentioning Jerusalem.

Jordan pointed out that for all practical and technical purposes Washington always recognised Jerusalem as occupied territory and the door would not have been open for the U.S. to signal a shift in its stand by abstaining on a specific reference to Jerusalem if it was not included in the resolution.

But the PLO stand was that every U.N. resolution issued on the Middle East since 1967 included a reference to Jerusalem and dropping such a reference would have implied an abandoning of the Palestinian claim to the city as the capital of their future independent state.

Mr. Bal'awi indirectly repeated the same position on Tuesday, "Jerusalem is the capital of the independent state of Palestine," he told reporters. "At the same time it is also an issue of concern for Arabs, Muslims as well as Christians."

The PLO official looked visibly uncomfortable answering repeated questions from journalists focusing on the theme of Jerusalem and the restoration of holy shrines there.

The question of restoring holy shrines in Jerusalem was raised when last week's PLO statement specifically referred to Saudi Arabia's "contribution to repairing and maintaining" them but did not contain any reference to Jordan, which continues to be the guardian of the Muslim shrines in the Holy City despite its severance of legal and administrative links with the occupied territories in 1988.

Asked what the PLO's stand was towards the restoration of holy sites, Mr. Bal'awi skirted a direct answer and said: "Any development of any sites in the occupied territories is not different from developing any sites elsewhere in Palestine or in Jordan... Karak, Ma'an, Qalqiliya, Gaza or Nabulus..."

Answering other questions, Mr. Bal'awi said he briefed the Jordanian government on the status of negotiations with Israel "following the massacre in Hebron and the adoption of U.N. Security Council Resolution 904."

He stressed that the talks that the PLO launched with Israel after Resolution 904 was adopted were not a continuation of the negotiations on self-rule as envisaged in the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord but covered only "security arrangement for the Palestinians living under occupation."

If these talks produced a satisfactory arrangement, he said, the PLO would resume the self-rule negotiations.

'New Restrictions' on Palestinian Bridge Crossings

JN2903190494 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Amman, March 29 (GNA)—The Jordanian authorities have started the application of new restrictions on traveller crossing into Jordan through bridges with the occupied Palestinian territories.

Without any announcement, the Jordanian authorities ordered Palestinians to obtain an entry authorization ahead of crossing its territories from the occupied Arab lands.

The new decision, the first such measure since 1967, is only effective on residents of the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip who are 45 years old and more and those living in the occupied West Bank who are 36 years old and more.

Palestinian and Jordanian joint committees have discussed here lately the movement of Palestinians through bridges linking Jordan with the occupied territories.

The measures were apparently taken in light of the agreement reached between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel in regard with the Gaza-Jericho first accord.

Bombing Suspects' Organization, Ties Detailed

JN2903193894

[Editorial Report] Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic on 30 March publishes on page 5 an approximately 4,000-word report on the suspects charged in connection with a spate of recent explosions in Jordan.

AL-BILAD, "an independent political weekly," claims to have accompanied Major Muhannad Hijazi, the public prosecutor of the State Security Court, and the defendants to the sites targeted for explosions. The defendants were reported to have been in good health. They were also reported to have said that they are "heroes" because they carried out these bombings. The argument that they advanced is that they were carrying out God's injunction against "debauchery." They reportedly planned to establish a caliphate, assassinate intelligence and army personnel, and kill the Jordanian and Palestinian peace talks teams to halt the march of "capitulation," as they put it.

The weekly states that 'Abdallah Kamil al-Shuraydah al-Hashayikah is the principal defendant in the series of bombings that have recently taken place in Jordan. The weekly notes that al-Hashayikah, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, Suwaylih Branch, left Amman in 1990 to work as a teacher of Arabic in the Philippines, where he also taught at the al-Imam al-Shafi'i Foundation. This foundation is supervised by Jamal Khalifah, also known as Abi-Bara', a Saudi national and an in-law of Usamah Bin-Ladin, a Saudi national of Yemeni origin currently living in Khartoum, Sudan. Khalifah, Bin-Ladin's right hand-man, is reported to be close to the ruling Saudi family.

According to the paper, al-Hashayikah discussed with Khalifah the idea of launching of an organization in Jordan to "eradicate forbidden conduct by force" in order to lay the groundwork for establishing a caliphate in Jordan. This idea was well received by Jamal Khalifah. The recruits of the organization would be Jordanians who received military training in Afghanistan during the war with the Soviets. The only thing the organization needed was financing. The report states that this all happened while the two were in the Philippines. Al-Hashayikah returned to Amman early this year to launch his organization so that he might receive the promised finances from Bin-Ladin, and Jamal Khalifah, "the mastermind of Bin-Ladin's terrorist operations in the Arab world."

The article continues, noting that the organization al-Hashayikah used had already taken its final shape before he left for the Philippines. It had a joint command consisting of himself, as well as Jihad al-Tanjir, Zakariyah Muhammad Dawud, and Isma'il al-'Amayirah. They used mosques and places of worship to "concoct conspiracies." The recruits of the organization received refresher courses in military training during further visits to Afghanistan via Saudi Arabia or Yemen.

According to the paper, "Bin-Ladin's group" received the recruits in Saudi Arabia upon their arrival there, and provided them with the necessary visas and air tickets to Pakistan, where they then traveled to Afghanistan. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani, representative of the Yemeni Reform Grouping at the Yemeni Presidential Council, is reported to have provided the Afghan Arabs stopping over in Yemen en route to Afghanistan with the necessary visas and air tickets, as well as "his constant financial support for the organization."

The weekly also claims that some of the organization members remained in Jordan to plan bomb attacks and recruit other members. Having faced difficulties in acquiring the necessary explosives in Jordan, the organization sent Zakariyah Muhammad Dawud Qasim to Yemen, where he was trained in how to manufacture sophisticated explosives. He was also trained in detonating explosives by remote control.

The paper explains that, in order to achieve its objectives, the organization believed that it had to kill Arab and Muslim leaders who do not apply the Islamic sharia in their countries. It also believed that it had to resist the ongoing Middle East peace negotiations by all means, including the use of force. The organization also planned to blow up movie theaters, nightclubs, bars, tourist areas, liquor stores, and public areas where the two sexes mingle, such as the Housing Bank Complex. The organization also planned to assassinate senior intelligence, army, and public security personnel in order to pave the way for the creation of a caliphate in Jordan.

Noting a plan by the organization to assassinate the Jordanian and Palestinian peace talks negotiators, AL-BILAD says: "In addition to carrying out bombings, the organization members entertained the idea of drawing up a full-fledged plan to liquidate Jordanian and Palestinian peace negotiators, headed by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, former head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks.

According to the paper, the group found al-Majali's home telephone number, and telephoned him, telling him they were journalists working for a local daily. They asked for a date for an important press interview with him. Al-Majali agreed to grant them an interview. Al-Majali was meant to be assassinated during this bogus interview, according to the report, which it said was planned with a great deal of cleverness. A date was set for the interview and forty-eight hours before the interview was scheduled to take place, the organization leadership had drawn up a detailed plan to assassinate al-Majali by explosive charges and other weapons to be carried by the bogus press team, which would have consisted of reporters and cameramen.

The paper says it was only divine providence that intervened to save al-Majali, who was assigned an official mission outside Jordan. This mission required him to travel to Washington ahead of the time set for the implementation of the assassination plan. Thus, the bogus interview date was postponed to a later date. However, this date has never materialized because the culprits were apprehended.

The weekly paper goes on to say that, having failed in their bid to liquidate al-Majali, the organization members attempted to assassinate members of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, including Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi. However, stringent security precautions and the secrecy with which al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi surround their moves thwarted the defendants' scheme. Undeterred by their failure, the defendants recruited an employee of the Grand Palace Hotel, where the Palestinian peace negotiators stayed. The hotel employee was asked to plant explosive charges in the peace negotiators' rooms. Once again, strict security precautions thwarted their scheme.

According to the report, the failure of the organization's assassination scheme prompted the organization command to endorse a plan of explosions in Jordan to convince Jamal Khalifah to finance the organization. This resulted in explosions at movie theaters in Amman and al-Zarqa'. However, attempts to carry out further explosions elsewhere in Jordan failed.

Muhammad 'Ali Shihadah is reportedly the "organization's mastermind responsible for picking explosion targets."

The paper's investigations indicated that 'Abdallah Diyyah, a prominent Suwaylih-based Muslim Brotherhood member, was acquainted with the organization's scheme by 'Abdallah al-Hashayikah. However, Muslim Brotherhood sources ruled out Diyyah's involvement in this scheme.

Elaborating further on this issue, the paper says: "Several quarters insinuated that the Muslim Brotherhood could be implicated in these explosion incidents, particularly since al-Hashayikah was a Brotherhood leader in Suwaylih, not to mention the fact that Diyyah was close to the hawkish wing of the Muslim Brotherhood. Meanwhile, informed sources ruled out this possibility, which has not been confirmed by the interrogations conducted with the defendants.

"AL-BILAD has learned that 23 persons have been implicated in the recent spate of explosions. They will stand trial at the State Security Court within the next two weeks. If found guilty, they could receive punitive measures, including the death sentence. These defendants are the following: 'Abd Salih Husayn al-Jahalin, Muhammad 'Ali Husayn Shihadah Abu-'Ayyad, Yasin Hasan Muhammad Zahrah, Hasan Hamdan Hasan 'Abd-al-Qadir, Muhammad Salih Musa 'Aqil, Sulayman Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Al Bisah, Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd-al-Fattah al-'Adharibah, Samir Ahmad Muhammad

Tilagh, 'Abd-al-Nasir Mahmud Muhammad Yunus, Fa'iq Salih Yusuf al-Shawish, 'Umar Jibril Muhammad al-Shawahin, 'Abdallah Kamil al-Hashayikah, Jihad Ahmad Khalid al-Tanjir, Khalil Tawfiq Muhammad 'Alqam, Muhammad Ahmad al-Shaykh al-Fahmawi, Salim Musa Yusuf, Zakariyah Muhammad Dawud Qasim, Isma'il Sa'id al-'Amayirah, Muhammad Sa'id Muqbil Dar-'Awdah, Walid Muhammad 'Ashsha, Muhammad Amin al-Shamasinah, Ra'd Khalil, and 'Abd-al-Majid al-'Adharibah."

AL-BILAD concludes its report by promising to provide its readers with further details as they unfold when the State Security Court begins to investigate this case.

No further processing planned.

IAF Voices Support for DPRK Nuclear Stance

JN3003084394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Mar p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party Tuesday [29 March] voiced its support for North Korea in the face of what it called U.S. arrogance and attempts to humiliate the North Korean people and tamper with their internal affairs.

In a letter addressed to president Kim Il-Song through the North Korean ambassador in Amman, the IAF denounced U.S. attempts to conduct inspections on North Korea's nuclear programme at a time when Washington continues to provide unlimited assistance to the Jewish state by helping it to build up its own nuclear arsenal.

The Americans continue to supply military assistance to the Israelis who continue to occupy Palestinian land and cause the dispersion of Palestinians throughout the world, said the letter.

American threats levelled against North Korea remind us of the tragedy and the sufferings of the Iraqi people who continue to endure the consequences of the unjust war waged on them and the results of the embargo on its children and women, the letter continued.

At the same time, it said, the Americans continue to pursue a policy aimed at humiliating the Iraqi people and devastating their potentials in order to prevent them from building for future generations.

American threats levelled against North Korea, which refuses to succumb to Washington's hegemony, they said, also remind them of Washington's threats against Sudan, whose people suffer as a result of an embargo imposed since the emergence of an Islamic regime in the country, said the letter.

In conjunction with the sanctions on Sudan is American continued support for the separatist movement in the South of the country a move which, the letter said, is designed to weaken the Sudanese people and keep them subjected and under American control.

"While we express our total astonishment at the U.S. administration's insistence on conducting inspections on your nuclear programme through the help of the U.N. Security Council, which has become a tool in Washington's hands, we also note that the United States administration protects and enhances Israel's nuclear programme and an arsenal of hundreds of nuclear heads that perpetually threaten the Arab region's security," said the IAF.

Such practices, concluded the letter, provide a stark evidence of the United States double standard policies.

Columnist Attacks UN Embargo Extension on Iraq

JN2103120694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Mar 94 p 26

["Highlights" column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "Will We Bend Our Heads to the United States?"]

[Text] The UN Security Council's resolution on 17 March 1994, which maintained the blockade on the Iraqi people, was a U.S. decision. This resolution represented the utmost in racial discrimination and hostility toward the Arabs. It was a new U.S. stab in the back of the Arab nation and dignity, as well as a violation of simple human rights and Security Council Resolution 715, which clearly provides for the lifting of the oil embargo once the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction is completed. This elimination, however, was achieved two months ago as was stated by the chief inspector Ekeus.

Each time Iraq meets the Security Council's demands, despite their arbitrary nature, the United States presents impossible new demands and terms. The blockade is not meant to liberate Kuwait, dispose of Iraq's nuclear capabilities, or eliminate weapons of mass destruction; it is meant to subjugate Iraq to the United States.

U.S. sources say that 397,226 Iraqis died as a direct result of the blockade from 1990 to the end of 1993. This figure includes 140,181 children under five years of age. This is a true massacre and "a holocaust" committed against the Arab race.

The world is still feeling guilty due to its silence over the racist Nazi crimes, but, the world's conscience is still asleep despite the continuous massacre against Iraq's children, old people, and patients.

There are other significant statistics to measure the repercussions resulting from the crime of this age. Iraqi medical laboratories issued 1,494,050 reports in 1989. This figure declined by 27 percent in 1990; by 57 percent in 1991; by 60.5 percent in 1992; and by 61.4 percent in 1993. Due to the lack of necessary medical supplies, surgeries carried out in Iraqi hospitals declined by 43 percent in 1990; by 57 percent in 1991; by 63.7 percent in 1992; and by 65.6 percent in 1993. Moreover, diseases caused by malnutrition have risen 13.6-fold since the blockade began.

The real pleasure for those in the U.S. Administration, who pursue the hobby of torturing and annihilating human beings, is to compel the Arabs and Muslims to join the blockade. This is a unique way of coercion and humiliation under the slogan of international legitimacy.

The United States committed a bloody massacre in Iraq in 1991 using the most sophisticated lethal weapons under the Republican George Bush. Today, the United States is committing another, yet more atrocious massacre, under the Democrat President Clinton, represented by denying an entire people their natural rights to obtain food and medicine. This constitutes an open call for terrorism, bigotry, wrath, and extremism in the Middle East.

The humiliating Arab submission to the unfair U.S. blockade on the Arab people in Iraq means that the Arabs are bending their heads to the neo-Nazis who describe the wars of annihilating peoples as a conflict among civilizations.

Editorial on Calls To Lift Boycott on Israel

JN2703103294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Mar 94 p 1, 21

[Editorial: "Siege of Iraq and Boycott of Enemy"]

[Text] It is an economic disaster even to think of lifting or easing the Arab boycott of the Zionist enemy, and it is an economic and political disaster to include this topic in the Arab foreign ministers meetings less than 40 days since the martyrdom of scores of Palestinians in the Ibrahimi Mosque.

It will be an economic, political, and moral disaster if these ministers meet to discuss lifting the Arab boycott without daring to discuss the racialist Arab, Islamic, and Western boycott of sisterly Iraq and the war of annihilation launched against its people, their bread, medicines, and security.

How did things get so bad? How did the U.S. and Western disdain for the nation reach the point of asking it to lift the boycott on the enemy and tighten it on a sisterly country? How do the Arab League states meet in Cairo without remembering the tragedy of the Iraqis who, thanks to this league and under its pan-Arab flag, the first instigative resolution against them was adopted without hearing the voice of the honorable Arabs which warned that this resolution was against the whole nation and targeted the nation's dignity, wealth, present, and future.

We were pleased with the reference to the continued Western pressures on Libya, but we wonder why no reference was made to the Western war of annihilation launched against the Iraqi people?

We were pleased with the reference to the Libyan flexibility in dealing with the Western pressures, but we wonder why no reference was made to all obligations fulfilled by sisterly Iraq and the flexibility it showed, which did not convince the brother rather than the enemy, and did not convince the friend rather than the foe?

What we hope to see is something concrete to show respect for the blood of Ramadan's martyrs in the Ibrahimi Mosque, and a conviction by all that the Iraqis, Palestinians, Libyans, Sudanese, Somalis, and all other Arabs are Arabs who should be treated with the same standards—that is if we have the free will to do this and can make an independent decision.

What we hope is that some people would be ashamed before God, homeland, nation, and history when we hear talk about lifting the boycott on the enemy and do not hear whispers about lifting the boycott on the brother, although hundreds of Iraqis are martyred by famine, disease, and horror, while this enemy is not affected by our boycott because all Westerners support it, based on all their hatred of us and racism in dealing with us.

What is the use of thinking about whether or not to amend the Arab League Charter if this is not preceded by a change in what is in the hearts of some of us, especially concerning the Arab peoples suffering from tragedies and disasters due to the pan-Arab and religious positions of some of us?

Daily on PLO Stand on Talks, Clinton's Remarks

JN2603124494 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 26 Mar 94 p 21

[Editorial: "Once Again: He Who Owns Nothing Gives To The Ones Who Do Not Deserve"]

[Text] Did U.S. President Bill Clinton offer Jerusalem as a gift to Israel even before the end of the ongoing negotiations with the PLO over self-rule and before the start of negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories? We pose this question in view of Clinton's recent statements to Jewish leaders on his claimed belief in the need to keep Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel.

President Clinton left such an issue to be decided during negotiations between the PLO and Israel on the final status of the occupied territories. However, the PLO, which agreed through the Oslo accord on a solution of unlinked phases, is now required to pause at the contents of Clinton's statements on Jerusalem, which, aside from its sanctity, also represents a large part of the West Bank area. If the PLO continues the negotiations while overlooking these statements, it will mean an implicit acceptance of a predetermined decision on the issue of occupied Jerusalem, even before negotiations on it begin.

The PLO and all the concerned Arab and Islamic parties are required to stress what Jordan has repeatedly stressed—that sovereignty over holy Jerusalem can only belong to Almighty God, and that if peace is to be achieved in this part of the world, Jerusalem should be a symbol of peace and a meeting point for the sons of the three monotheistic religions. Jewish hegemony over Jerusalem will only fuel conflict and instability.

The continued Jewish insistence on clinging to Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel and the growing U.S. support for this direction should prompt the PLO—which has shouldered the responsibility of negotiation over the issue of the West Bank territories occupied in the 1967 war, including Jerusalem—to adopt a clear and sound stand on the issue of Jerusalem. Israel has repeatedly claimed Jerusalem is an inseparable part in tandem with increasing U.S. support for the annexation since the recent UN Security Council resolution in which the issue of Jerusalem was included. Washington had reservations over this issue and hence an agreement was reached to resume the negotiations despite these reservations and Clinton's statements on his belief that Jerusalem should remain united under Israel's control.

Since we are still in the first stage of the negotiations, we, as Arabs and Palestinians, are required to return to the strongest form of coordination so that we will not leave the door open for the Arab parties to be isolated and so we do not end up with results such as those which surprised us in the secret Oslo negotiations and the well-known Washington accord.

Al-Hariri on Recent Events, Pope's May Visit

JN2803084594 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 26 Mar 94 pp 1, 15

[Report by Muwaffaq Madani]

[Excerpts] Beirut—Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stated that the recent series of explosions and the political confusion in his country sought to bring down the state. However, it had the opposite effect. [passage omitted]

In an interview with AL-BAYAN, the Lebanese prime minister said that certain individuals tried to exacerbate the situation and divide the people to influence the visit Pope John Paul II is scheduled to pay to Lebanon on 28 May. He said they wanted to influence the pope to adopt the opposition's viewpoint and stand. Al-Hariri stressed that the pope's visit will take place as scheduled in spite of all these circumstances. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri told AL-BAYAN that his government is in the process of adopting a plan to review the recent threats against the state.

Al-Hariri stressed that this review, which his government started by tackling the situation on the judicial, security, and information levels, stems from the fact that his government will puruse its tasks without a cabinet reshuffle.

Al-Hariri said he expects the general atmosphere in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon to change in light of the satisfaction with the UN Security Council resolution condemning the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. [passage omitted]

Paper Charges Israeli Role in Sabotage Operations

NC2603124394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1132 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] Beirut, 26 Mar (MENA)—A Lebanese newspaper today published new information about the Lebanese network that recently carried out a series of sabotage operations, most of whose members have been arrested.

Lebanon's AL-SAFIR says that Israel played a key role in planning these operations. Two Israeli officers from the Shin Bet, Israel's state security service, paid several visits to Lebanon and held contacts and meetings with the members of the network. Some of these meetings took place in Israel and Cyprus. The paper adds that employees of the Lebanese Forces' security service took part in these meetings.

The paper says that members of this network live outside Lebanon. They were transported to Lebanon on rubber dinghies with the help of the Israeli Navy to carry out these sabotage operations and plant explosives in places of worship and the headquarters of political parties and to attack religious leaders in the Christian areas.

AL-SAFIR says that after the Sayyidat al-Najat Church explosion, most of the members of the group that carried out the operation were evacuated by sea or by infiltrating across the occupied border strip with forged identity cards.

The paper says that the Lebanese security services received important information about the suspects and explosives experts who had carried out such operations during the civil war, thus facilitating the quick arrest of the network members.

The paper explains that the information and confessions obtained by the security services confirm that this network had planned a further series of explosions in the Christian areas to strongly shock the Christian community, cause sectarian strife, and encourage Christian fundamentalists to begin clamoring for autonomous security organs for the Christian community and demanding international protection.

The newspaper AL-SAFIR says that the operations involved attacks against places of worship and clerical and political figures and the desecration of Christian cemeteries. The masterminds of these operations aimed to undermine national unity, disrupt relations with Syria—a country that provides Lebanon with its current security umbrella—upset Syrian-U.S. relations, impede the peace talks, and abort Pope John Paul II's visit to Lebanon, scheduled for late May.

AL-SAFIR says that the scheme also aimed to point the finger of accusation at the Lebanese Muslims after the discovery of an unexploded bomb bearing the inscription: "There is no God but God."

The paper accuses some French quarters of trying to establish an unofficial bridge between Lebanon and Israel by arranging a meeting between former Lebanese Army Commander General Michel 'Awn, currently living in Paris, and Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activity in Lebanon and the head of the delegation negotiating with Lebanon.

Israel, Lebanese Front Said Involved in Bombings

NC2903093894 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 26 Mar 94 pp 1, 12

[Report by the political editor]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] According to available information that is still incomplete, the network that carried out the church bombing is made up of three rings:

1. The first is the planning ring, which is Israel. The information indicates that two Israeli officers visited Lebanon for this purpose.

2. The second is the implementation one. Several employees of the Lebanese Forces' [LF] security apparatus were involved, including some who lived in Lebanon and some who were travelling and were persuaded

to return. Several meetings took place between those who planned and those who supervised the implementation. Some of these meetings took place in Israel, some in Cyprus, and a few in Lebanon.

Some of those who lived abroad returned to Lebanon by sea from Cyprus with Israeli help involving the Israeli Navy, rubber dinghies, and frogmen.

3. The third is the protection and concealment one. This ring was asked to carry out a number of distraction operations to conceal the effects of the first crime and preoccupy the people with other imaginary or genuine operations.

The rings operated independently of each other. They only knew the Israeli liaison officers.

After the operation, most members of the implementation team were withdrawn by sea or infiltrated to the border strip with forged identity cards or foreign passports issued for this purpose. The members of the protection ring were also scheduled to be withdrawn.

How was the network uncovered?

There is no sufficient information on this subject. But what is certain is that the security services went back to its rich archives about explosive experts (these people have records and are identified by bombs, shells, timers, and the way the bombs are connected). The security services also benefited from the treasure they confiscated in the Lebanese Forces' war council when they seized the building and evicted Dr. Samir Ja'ja' to where he now lives in Ghidras. In this treasure there was abundant information about the people, networks, liaison officers, and explosive experts who received excellent training in Israel. [passage omitted]

Why Fu'ad Malik Was Arrested

According to the information, retired Major Fu'ad Malik, who is the second in command of the Lebanese Forces after Ja'ja', had attended some of the preparatory meetings to plan the church bombing. He was cited as saying to the young men in one of these meetings, "May God give you health." By virtue of his responsibility and military position, he must have been involved, even if he did not give the order.

According to the information, during his interrogation he said: "I am not bloody like Samir Ja'ja', and in all my time in the Lebanese Forces I have not killed anyone..." [passage omitted]

His arrest, according to this information, might have been for the purpose of exposing Ja'ja's role. It also might have been the result of a political settlement involving intensive U.S. efforts to save the head of the Lebanese Forces' commander and satisfy some sectarian sensitivities.

It is also said that U.S. Embassy officials in Beirut were briefed about the investigation and were stunned by the accurate information (and perhaps also the confessions). Consequently, no protest or "question" about what has happened to the leadership of the Lebanese Forces were issued either in Beirut or in Washington. [passage omitted]

Israeli Raids on Iqlim al-Tuffah Noted

NC3003111494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] We have been informed that at 1320, Israel raided the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights. Israeli warplanes are now releasing thermal balloons. After 1300, residential areas in 'Arab Salim started coming under heavy sniper fire from the occupation troops' posts in al-Suwayda'. Israeli warplanes continue to overfly al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah, drawing ground fire. Since 1200, Israeli warplanes have been flying over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah and conducting mock raids. They drew antiaircraft fire from the Lebanese Army's ground defenses.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1038 GMT on 30 March adds the following: "Two Israeli warplanes blasted positions of the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement in south Lebanon in two successive waves on Wednesday, police here said.

["The warplanes fired two missiles at positions in the Iqlim al- Tuffah hills east of the port city of Sidon, where Hizballah maintains strongholds dug in the rock."]

Fadlallah Says U.S. Behind al-Nabatiyah Massacre

PM2403135894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Mar 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Fadlallah: U.S. Decision Behind al-Nabatiyah Massacre; Israelis Will Drink From Same Cup"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that "there is a U.S.-Western terrorism working to kill us daily in Lebanon and Palestine with U.S. weapons." He also said that "a U.S. decision and U.S. brutality are behind the massacre committed by Israel against our people in the south." He said that "those killing our kinfolk and cities will drink from the same cup and will suffer the effects of this experience, because it is not that we like to kill children, women, and the elderly, as they did, but because we could reach these results when the tragedy develops into more than one people's revolution and more than one state of bereavement."

He added: "We understand that a war might move to stir up a problem with troops here and there, and we understand that some civilians can be killed when there is a state of war, but we cannot—in the context of any political, religious, or cultural position—understand why civilians, in particular children returning from schools, should be bombarded with a brutal mentality that can aim its shells against people working in their schools, markets, and homes, especially in areas where there are no military personnel or posts at all."

He said: "That illegitimate state is a state of massacres that murders children, women, and the elderly; blows up hotels, churches, and mosques; and kills Muslim and Christian worshipers in cold blood." Fadlallah wondered: "If the children killed while returning from their schools and the innocent people killed while at their homes or on their way to work were Jews, would the United States have kept silent? Would Europe have kept silent? Would that world, which calls itself civilized and developed, have kept silent? Or would it have instigated the entire world against what it terms extremists, fanatics, and savages.... We have not heard a single word from the arrogant world or an official word from Lebanon. Are they all frightened to condemn Israel?... [It seems that] what is required is for everyone to give Israel everything in order to risk the peace, as U.S. President (Bill Clinton) says."

He said: "When we look at all this spite and all these missiles launched against civilians, we see the U.S. decision, U.S. brutality, U.S. terrorism, and U.S. arrogance, joined from time to time by British and French arrogance." Addressing citizens, he said: "Store all this inside you and teach your children that the United States is the cause of all your problems, as it is the one which gives the enemy all the means of power and obstructs any condemnation of him." He added: "It is the mujahidin who represent Lebanon's strength and freedom, not those who engage in internal sectarian predicaments and massacres."

Criticizes Clinton Remarks on Jerusalem

NC2503183294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Mar 94

[Text] In his Friday sermon at Imam al-Rida Mosque in Beirut's Southern Suburb today, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah strongly criticized the U.S. arrogant policy against the Islamic peoples. He also criticized the Zionist entity's brutal attacks in occupied Palestine and Lebanon.

Fadlallah called on the world's Muslims to confront the expansionist ambitions of the Zionist entity and global arrogance. He also criticized the U.S. stand at the UN Security Council and U.S. President Bill Clinton's remarks that Jerusalem is the capital of the Zionist entity. Fadlallah said U.S. policy is based on hostility to Muslims.

Referring to the recent developments in Lebanon, Fadlallah urged the Lebanese people to unite and to be vigilant against the enemies' plots.

Jordan Reports Sentencing of al-Ma'ayitah Assassins

JN2403214094 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 24 Mar 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Lebanon officially accused Abu-Nidal's radical Fatah Revolutionary Council of being behind the January assassination of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah in Beirut. An official indictment demanded the death penalty for three members of the group currently in custody and 13 others who remain at large. It said all the suspects, who include Abu-Nidal's top man in Lebanon Mahir 'Abdallah, were involved in the killing of al-Ma'ayitah.

The indictment named the actual killer as Yusuf Sha'ban and said he was assisted by the accomplices Yusuf 'Ubwani and Bassam Jabir who are now both in jail.

Government Accused of Undermining Press Freedom

NC2803133594 Paris AFP in English 1305 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Beirut, March 28 (AFP)—Several mass circulation newspapers Monday accused the government of stifling freedom of expression in Lebanon after it banned news programs on private radio and television stations.

The criticism came as authorities prepared to take legal action against two newspapers for reports on the investigation into the bombing of a Maronite Christian church and allegations that a leading suspect was beaten up in custody.

Ten people were killed and 54 wounded when a bomb exploded in the Our Lady of Deliverance Church in Zuq Mika'il, north of Beirut, on February 27.

"In five days a party was dissolved, radios and televisions were silenced and (now) they are after newspapers," said the pro-Syrian AL-DIYAR daily on Monday.

"Is the government of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri trying to transform the country into a big jail?," asked the daily's political commentator.

Newspaper publisher and Lebanon's former ambassador to the United Nations Ghassan Tuwayni blasted Information Minister Michel Samahah describing him as a "little Goebbels."

"We fear the country will become a third world dictatorship with tribunals like those of the 1930s under Stalin," said Tuwayni in a front-page editorial in his Arabic-language daily AL-NAHAR.

Tuwayni, who up until now supported al-Hariri's government, called for a cabinet reshuffle.

Authorities last week charged that seven out of nine suspects in the bombing were members of the disbanded Christian Lebanese Forces militia.

The group, which became a political party in 1991, was outlawed after its deputy leader Fu'ad Malik, was arrested as part of the inquiry.

The cabinet also banned private radio and television stations from broadcasting news and political programs from midnight Wednesday until parliament approved legislation to regulate the media. The ban restricted news coverage to the state-run Tele Liban and Radio Liban.

The state-run National News Agency (ANI) said the state prosecutor would take action Monday against AL-DIYAR over a report alleging that Malik was beaten while under arrest.

Action would also be taken against the pro-Syrian newspaper AL- SAFIR which alleged the Israeli Shin Beth internal security service had "planned the attack on the church," according to ANI.

ANI said legal officials had "warned against any violation of the secrecy surrounding the investigation and maintain they will take action against anyone publishing information without official proof."

News Ban Feared To Be 'Long-Term Blackout'

NC3003102594 Paris AFP in English 0931 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Report by Hala Boncompagni]

[Text] Beirut, March 30 (AFP)—Politicians and newspapers voiced fears on Wednesday that Lebanon's week-old ban on unofficial news broadcasts could turn into a long-term blackout, after the government delayed a new media law.

A special ministerial committee is to discuss ways of modifying a draft law, Information Minister Michel Samahah said at the end of an emergency cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

But Beirut newspapers expected the discussions to be drawn out, noting that the draft law had already been shelved for more than two years.

The new law "will never authorise private media to broadcast news but instead invite them to collaborate with the official radio and television," the pro-Syrian daily AL-SAFIR.

"A majority of cabinet ministers support a definitive ban on private radio and televisions, which were born of the war and must end with the end of the war," it said.

Private radio and television stations have been banned from broadcasting news and political programmes since March 23. The government has restricted all news coverage to state-run Tele Liban and Radio Liban.

The move came as the authorities launched an investigation into a church bombing last month that killed 10 worshippers and wounded 54 others.

The authorities accuse seven members of the Lebanese Forces (LF) Christian militia of involvement in the attack. They have arrested the group's deputy Fu'ad Malik and outlawed the LF, which formed a political party in 1991.

The move against the LF, one of the militias widely held responsible for much of the bloodshed and destruction in Lebanon's 1975-1990 war, has divided public opinion.

But the ban on broadcasts has led several political and religious leaders as well as ordinary people to express fears it could mean an end to Lebanon's political freedoms, although the government insists it's only temporary.

Former MP Butrus Harb charged that the ban was shifting Lebanon "from a democracy to a totalitarian regime."

The leader of the Iranian-backed Hizballah movement, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, warned that "the turn of the print media will come, and Lebanon will become like all Arab countries, colourless and insipid."

Right-wing Christian Phalange Party leader George Sa'adah joined in to say that "a distinction must be made between security problems and freedom of opinion."

State-run Tele Liban, meanwhile, started Wednesday to broadcast hourly news bulletins for the first time since its creation in 1959 to fill the news vacuum in the country.

Official Radio Liban, which is picked up on medium wave in the Greater Beirut area only, also began broadcasting news on its FM channel to cover the entire country.

Around 50 private radio and television stations sprouted up during the war, most of them illegally.

The ban affects around 20 stations which broadcast daily news and political programmes, including Future Television which is owned by billionaire Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

Phalangists Sue LF for Control of TV Station

NC2903211794 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Beirut, March 29 (AFP)—The right-wing Christian Phalangist Party on Tuesday filed a lawsuit against its former militia the Lebanese Forces (LF), in a fresh challenge to the outlawed faction.

Phalangist Secretary General Karim Paqraduni told AFP that the party wanted to recover the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC), Lebanon's most watched television station which has been run by the militia since 1985.

He said that the LBC was set up in 1980 with Phalangist funds after a political decision was taken by the rightwing party. It began broadcasting five years later.

"The dissolution of the LF has opened the way for us to recover what rightfully belongs to us," he said.

Paqraduni added that the party had already filed lawsuits against the LF to retrieve cooperatives and buildings controlled by the former militia.

Last week the government outlawed the Lebanese Forces as part of an investigation into the bombing in February of a Maronite Christian church that killed 10 worshippers and wounded 54.

The authorities charge that seven out of nine suspects are LF members, including the former militia's deputy Fu'ad Malik.

The LF was set up in 1976 by assassinated president elect Bashir al-Jumayyil to be the military wing of the Phalangist Party, which was founded in 1936 by al-Jumayyil's father Pierre.

It grouped a string of Christian militias until the government disbanded the militias in 1990. One year later the LF formed a political party under the leadership of Christian warlord Samir Ja'ja'.

No Cabinet Decision on Media Bill

NC2903200594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers has studied the draft media law in light of the recommendations by the ministerial committee entrusted with the task of drafting the bill. The council also discussed the text of Legislative Decree No. 104 amending the law on publications. The Council asked the ministerial committee to redraft it.

The Council of Ministers asked Minister of Information Michel Samahah to submit a statement to the cabinet at its next session, defining the circumstances in which the radio and television networks, except for Radio Lebanon and Tele-Liban, were banned from broadcasting direct and indirect political news, as stipulated in the cabinet decisions.

The cabinet held its session at the B'abda Palace at 1800 today. The session was chaired by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and was attended by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. It ended at 2215.

Samahah: Committee To Finish Work on Media Law

NC3003065994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah at B'abda Palace on 29 March—recorded]

[Text] This evening, the Cabinet held an extraordinary meeting chaired by the president and attended by the prime minister and other ministers. The president expressed his hope and that of the prime minister and ministers that the Christian communities that will celebrate Easter on Sunday will perform all their religious rites—after the heinous crime committed against the worshippers in Sayyidat al-Najat Church—in an atmosphere of peace and security, thanks to the measures taken by the state to consolidate security and protect the homeland and citizens. He congratulated the Lebanese people in general and the Christian communities on Easter.

The Cabinet studied the draft media law in light of the observations of the ministerial committee entrusted to draft it. It also studied all the extraordinary circumstances compelling the Cabinet to adopt the extraordinary measures at its meeting held on 23 March. The Cabinet also discussed a bill on amending legislative Decree No. 104 amending the law on publications. The Cabinet asked the ministerial committee to redraft the media law in light of the ministers' observations.

Following the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr, chairman of the ministerial committee, asked the committee to meet at 1100 on Thursday [31 March) to complete its work. The Cabinet also asked the information minister to propose to the next Cabinet meeting that it define the framework banning the radio and television networks from broadcasting direct and indirect political news and programs, with the exception of Tele-Liban and Radio Lebanon, in accordance with the Cabinet decision.

Official Urges Israel To Accept Syrian Proposals

PM2803154094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Mar 94 p3

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Damascus Urges Israel To Accept Recent Syrian Proposals in Washington"]

[Text] Damascus—A Syrian official has stated that ending tension and establishing peace require an end to the Israeli occupation represented by the Israeli Army and settlements, the return of the occupied territories to their owners, and acceptance of the recent Syrian proposals submitted during the Washington negotiations to ensure objectivity and balance. This indicates that there has been no change in the Syrian proposals and views on the peace negotiations and topics of discussion in these negotiations with the Israelis since U.S. envoy Dennis Ross's visit to Damascus.

The Syrian official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the chain of events since the stumbling Palestinian-Israeli agreement has proved the Syrian views to be correct and demonstrated that partial solutions do not establish peace in the region, that the peace proposed by Syria is in harmony with the Security Council resolutions and the essence of the U.S. initiative, and that the Israelis should not believe that without such a peace the Middle East could possibly emerge from the circle of wars, violence, and disturbances.

The Syrian official accused Israel of obstructing any progress in the peace process and of persisting in its practices which are preventing the U.S. efforts from making any progress. The Syrian official also said: Israel cannot continue to pursue that line. It is very important that it should abide by Security Council Resolution 904 and accept international protection for the Palestinian people. It is also important that it should, in future Washington negotiations, discuss the future of the occupied territories and undertake to withdraw from them.

He added that the Washington negotiations cannot go on for ever and cannot remain as they are now. He said that Israel has two options, namely peace and security or return to wars and the law of the jungle. That is why the United States, which is committed to peace, is requested to play the main part in bringing about a change and in making Israel comply with the basis of the peace process, that basis being the U.S. proposals.

The Syrian official pointed out that the massacres Israel is committing against the Palestinian people can only mean that Israel does not want peace, and that the failure to take any serious and practical measures against the Israeli policy has encouraged Rabin's government to commit more massacres and more acts of terrorism, as confirmed when six people were martyred and dozens wounded last Wednesday.

The Syrian official said that any progress in the peace process will depend on ending Israel's disregard for the United Nations and its resolutions.

Paper Views Pan-Arab Role, Al-Asad-Salih Talks

JN2603085994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Mar 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Pan-Arab Commitment," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH writes on the Arab meetings that were recently held in Syria, the most recent of which was the meeting held between President Hafiz al-Asad and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The talks during this meeting dealt with the Arab situation and the efforts being exerted to tackle the situation in fraternal Yemen.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Syria is actually qualified to play a pioneering pan-Arab role, and that it was the first to achieve solidarity and unity. Its Arab and international credibility has given it this pivotal and effective role that has attracted the sons of the Arab nation.

AL-THAWRAH reviews some of Syria's achievements and stands, such as the October war, its sacrifices for the sake of the Palestine question and Lebanon's unity, and its efforts to achieve unity with Egypt, Libya, Jordan, Sudan, Iraq, and Algeria. The paper also reminds us of Syria's pan-Arab stand at the Geneva summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Bill Clinton. The Arabs and the world were unanimous that President al-Asad negotiated on behalf of all Arabs.

AL-THAWRAH says: It is a stand that is committed to defending Arab rights and the Arab nation's interests, to achieving its unity, to settling differences among Arab brothers, to preventing internecine fighting and bloodshed, and to defending every pan-Arab achievement, such as Yemeni unity, which is an important step toward achieving Arab unity. Syria stands with the fraternal Yemeni people in their concern about safeguarding their unity, defending it, and protecting it from any reckless action or any attempt to torpedo it.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Al-Asad's Syria has frequently warned against the dangers posed by Arab differences, which Israel seeks to create. The paper calls for assuming responsibility to achieve Arab unity and to adopt a unified stand, particularly in light of the current changes in the world. Israel is exploiting these changes to besiege the Arabs, increase their differences, and isolate them from their friends in order to force them into capitulation and normalization. Unity is needed to face Israel, especially while it abides by occupying land, annexing Jerusalem, building settlements, and bringing more Jewish settlers.

AL-THAWRAH also notes President Hafiz al-Asad's statement that Syria's policy has always been based on achieving Arab solidarity. In addition to this, Syria advocates unity and calls on others to achieve it, whether with us or with the other Arab states. We have always warned of the dangers posed to the Arabs if they do not achieve solidarity and unity. Arab solidarity is the cornerstone of the joint Arab action on which we build our subsequent steps.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Based on all of this, Damascus attached great importance to the Yemeni issue in order to arrive at a quick and practical solution to the current crisis, and to foil the scheme of internecine fighting and partition, taking into consideration that safeguarding Yemen's resources necessitates the establishment of a strong unified state, especially since Yemen enjoys an important location on the Arab and international map.

Commentaries Urge Palestinian-Arab Coordination

Radio Urges Restoration

JN2903165894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Before the outset of the secret talks that led to Oslo agreement, Israeli officials used to call for a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip without waiting for the results of the Washington talks. This is due to the fact that the lives of the Israeli occupiers in the Strip turned has into a nightmare as a result of extensive and effective Palestinian resistance operations, and the Palestinian people's confrontation of the occupation troops as one rank.

All of a sudden, the situation changed completely, for the secret Oslo talks have produced an agreement called the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Then, as a result of the Palestinian side's commitment to halting struggle, the Palestinian people found themselves chased by the same Israeli troops they used to pursue. Thus, the number of Palestinians either killed or wounded begun to increase rapidly.

Israel has declared openly that its troops have the right to end terrorism and destroy terrorists. By this, it means the intifadah and its people. It implemented this on the ground by having its regular forces and the underground units began to fire indiscriminately on everyone.

In fact, Israel claimed that it was helping the Palestinian side, which was involved in signing the Oslo agreement, to restore security and stability to the occupied territories. The settlers also moved and conducted patrols. The killings escalated in a manner that raised the concern of the Palestinian people both inside and outside the occupied territories. Later, Israel perpetrated the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre that shook the world. It repeated this action by perpetrating the Jabaliya camp massacre in the Gaza Strip yesterday when the underground units, or the death squads, fired at a number of intifadah youths, killing six and wounding many others. Even the Fatah Hawks themselves have not escaped the Israeli escalation, for several of them were either killed or wounded.

It is clear to every Palestinian and Arab citizens, as well as to any international observer, that Israel used the Oslo agreement as a pretext to settle accounts with the Palestinian people. It has exploited the grave imbalance this agreement has created in the Palestinian and Arab arenas as a result of the Palestinian side's deviation from Arab consensus and the bases of the peace process, and its involvement in a distorted partial settlement. This has opened an endless labyrinth of darkness. The Gaza-Jericho accord has not led to Israel's withdrawal from Gaza or from Jericho, but to the tightening of the Zionist grip around the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho. Moreover, the negotiations stumbled and the Israeli withdrawal seemed to be a very complicated and difficult process.

After Gaza and Jericho, where the situation is becoming intensely volatile and the suffering is growing, the Israelis dragged the Palestinian side into discussions on the security of the city of Hebron. The security of Ramallah, Tulkarm, Janin, or Nabulus will also rise in the future. Amid these divided talks, which are very far from the crux of the peace process and its bases and objectives, the Israelis have succeeded in distracting the world's attention from the true nature and contents of the conflict. The issue has changed from one of a people whose land was occupied and rights were usurped, into an issue of security, which Israel proposes to tackle by conducting patrols, of course under its officers command, by the Israeli Army and the proposed Palestinian police.

UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which were adopted as a basis for the peace process, are clear and call for Israel's full withdrawal, and not for the establishment of a limited autonomy. The Madrid conference was held on clear bases and on the land-for-peace formula in order to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement on all the fronts of the conflict. Syria, supported by the Arabs, has always abided by the demand of a just and comprehensive solution and a full Israeli withdrawal. However, the Palestinian side's deviation from the bases of the meetings of Damascus, Beirut, and Amman, and from the agreed conditions of peace, has not only weakened the Arab position, but it has also brought catastrophes to the Palestinian people, increased Israeli intransigence, and involved the Palestine question in endless labyrinths. Certainly, Israel's massacres will not end with the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre or yesterday's massacre in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian people will be exposed to further catastrophes and setbacks under the cover of futile negotiations that will bring nothing to the Palestinians, regardless of the names they take, other than entrenching occupation and usurpation.

Getting rid of this Israeli labyrinth cannot take place by going deeper into it, but by returning to the pillars of the just and comprehensive Arab peace, Arab unanimity, and to full coordination with the brothers, by abiding by the UN Security Council resolutions and the agreed-upon bases of the peace process, and by uniting the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories.

Paper Urges 'Full Coordination'

JN3003083094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0454 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Press review]

[Text] Today, local newspapers address the barriers Israel places in the path of the peace process and its attempts to destroy its foundations by the commission of further massacres and the adoption of procrastination and maneuver.

AL-BA'TH writes: It has been shown to be impossible for Israel's policy to lead the region to the desired peace. The paper notes that since the positive summit session between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton Israel has been temporizing, maneuvering, and skirting the peace process and its basic components.

Israel is bent on negating all that has been achieved in the interest of the peace process by fabricating incidents that could rekindle and destabilize the Middle East, directly affecting the peace process, which Israel views as being in conflict with its short- and long-term objectives. Israel objects to the terms of a just and comprehensive peace laid out in the UN resolutions as preconditions for any settlement. Israel's conduct inside occupied Palestinian territory and in Lebanon is designed to rekindle Lebanon, camouflage its crimes in the occupied territories, and derail the peace process. While Israel professes to be concerned about peace, it is carrying out a policy aimed at killing every chance for peace and implementing its game plan of promoting a greater Israel, through massacres in the occupied land and attempts to reignite Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Working for a just and comprehensive peace necessarily means creating the right climate in the region. Had Israel been concerned about the peace process, it would have at least committed itself to the implementation of the UN resolutions. Tel Aviv, is however, not serious about peace. Its attention is focused on sabotaging the peace process.

Discussing the same theme, AL-THAWRAH writes: Since the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, the heavy hand of Israel's terror has been felt throughout the Palestinian arena, and has been escalating systematically. AL-THAWRAH points to the deliberate killings committed by Israel on a daily basis. Blind and savage Zionist hatred has extended to Lebanon to assassinate the peace march, stability, and national unity, and sap the country's strength so as to make it easier to dictate its terms. There has been an international condemnation of Israeli aggressiveness and crimes and anti-peace policies. Yet, instead of international efforts being directed at forcing the Israeli rulers to comply with UN resolutions, pressure is being applied to victimized Arabs—the only pary commited to peace.

It is important, AL-THAWRAH concludes, to reiterate that double standards cannot help the peace process.

TISHRIN, discussing the Jabalyah refugee camp massacre in Gaza, which claimed the lives of six Fatah hawks at the hands of Israel's secret units—death squads disguised in civilian clothes—writes: The new Israeli massacre was committed in the context of atrocities planned to browbeat the Palestinian people, quell their intifadah, and push them into unconditional capitulation. For Israel there is nothing to choose between one Palestinian and another; in its eyes all of them, including pregnant women and sucklings, are enemies.

The escalation against the Palestinians began after the signing of the Oslo agreement and since the Palestinian side deepened its involvement in the talks to put that accord in place. Before they began the secret talks with the Palestinians in Oslo, the Israelis threatened to effect a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza strip, after their presence there had become a veritable inferno. But once the accord was signed, they adopted the tactic of temporization, withdrawing neither from Gaza nor from Jericho. And they are not planning any pullout. They saw in the Oslo agreement and its aftermath a pretext to escalate their criminal actions against the Palestinian people.

The Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are far from addressing the substance of the Palestinian cause, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the UN Security Council resolutions, the Madrid formula, or the peace requirements. The Palestinian side is yielding fresh ground at each negotiating round. What all parties should seek is a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts of the conflict. Faced with mounting Palestinian resistance and a united Palestinian front, Israel contemplated a withdrawal from Gaza before the Oslo agreement. Today, however, is does not seem to be in any rush. Israel sees in the split in the Palestinian people's ranks and the continued involvement of the Palestinian side in the self-rule negotiations a golden opportunity for settling scores with the entire Palestinian community.

Unless the Palestinian side rectifies its position by returning to full coordination with the other Arab parties and the components of a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts, it will be the Palestinian cause that will suffer.

Pakistani Parliamentary Delegation Continues Visit

Meets Various Officials

JN2903155594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 mar 94

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received a Pakistani parliamentary delegation, led by Maulana Fazlur Rahman, chairman of the Pakistani National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Attending the meeting were Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the Syrian People's Assembly; Hasan Sibahi, People's Assembly member; and Naimul Hasan, Pakistani ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Pakistani parties represented in the Pakistani National Assembly in particular, and between the two friendly countries, Syria and Pakistan, in general, in the interest of their two peoples. The talks also dealt with several issues of interest to both countries, particularly the peace issue in the region, and the issue of Kashmir.

At 1000 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam also received Maulana Fazlur Rahman, chairman of the Pakistani National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, and his delegation.

Shakir Is'ayyid and the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with the situation in the Middle East and in Kashmir, and with relations between the two countries.

Meets Foreign Minister

JN2903201394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received a Pakistani parliamentary delegation, led by Maulana Fazlur Rahman, chairman of the Pakistani National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Attending the meeting were Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the Syrian People's Assembly, Walid Rajab, director of the Asia Desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestine question, and the Jerusalem issue. The talks also dealt with the situation in Kashmir and relations between the two friendly countries, Syria and Pakistan.

Prime Minister Confers With Polish Delegation

JN2903154994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] At 0930 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received the All-Polish Trade Unions Agreement delegation led by Mrs. Ewa Spychalska, chairwoman of the All-Polish Trade Unions Agreement.

Attending the meeting were comrade 'Izz-al-Din Nasir, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command member and head of the General Federation of Trade Unions [GFTU], and comrade Mustafa 'Isa, member of the GFTU Executive Bureau.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries and peoples, means of promoting them in all fields, and issues of mutual interest.

The chairwoman of the All-Polish Trade Unions Agreement expressed her appreciation for the Syrian achievements under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Minister Meets Swedish Expatriate Delegation

JN2903214994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, this evening received a delegation of the Federation of Expatriate Unions in Sweden headed by Sa'id Yilz.

During the meeting, the talks addressed the ongoing peace process, the Syrian position toward this process, and the regional situation.

The minister explained to the delegation the developments Syria has seen in all areas under the historic leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

Several members of the delegation expressed their thanks for the hospitality accorded to them in Syria. They also expressed their appreciation of the renaissance seen in all areas and sectors.

The meeting was attended by Mamduh Haydar, head of the Expatriates Department at the Foreign Ministry.